2023

Annual Town Report

BELCHERTOWN
BELCHERTOWN
POLICE
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Town of Belchertown

2023

Annual Town Report

# of the Town Officers

BELCHERTOWN · MASSACHUSETTS
FOUNDED 1731 · INCORPORATED 1761

for the

Town of Belchertown

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ON THE COVER:

Oliver, Comfort Dog at the Belchertown Police Department.
Photo submitted by: Valerie Austin, Comfort Dog Handler

Name Office Term Expires

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

Almoners - Whiting Street and Susan M.D. Bridgman Funds

Paul Anziano	5/2024
Linda Tsoumas	5/2024

Trustees – Calvin Bridgman Fund

Nicole J. Dunham	5/2023
Kenneth H. Snow	5/2024
Mary Olberding	5/2025

Board of Assessors

Donald L. Minney	5/2024
Raymond G. Goff	5/2025
Loring M. Caney, Jr.	5/2026

Board of Health

Hope V.H. Guardenier	5/2023
Colleen Duroshea	5/2024
Leeanne Connolly	5/2025
James F. Potter	5/2025
Kenneth Elstein	5/2026
David N. Gottsegen	5/2026

Housing Authority

Marie Ciosek	5/2024
Brian J. Rooney	5/2024
Nancy Delgado Bachmann	5/2025
Edward Harnois-*Tenant Board Member*	5/2027
State Seat - Vacant	

Moderator

Amanda Halperin	5/2023
Benjamin Farrell	5/2026

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee Members

Francesco Dell'Olio	11/2024
Lorraine F. Alves	11/2026

Planning Board

James J. Natle	5/2023
Justin Rosienski	5/2024
Michael A. Hofler	5/2025
Daniel R. Beaudette	5/2026
Elizabeth Pols	5/2027
Bjorn Markeson	5/2028

School Committee

Michael J. Knapp	5/2023
Ruby Bansal	5/2024

Name Office Term Expires

Amy B.W. Lamothe	5/2024
Natalie G. Santana	5/2025
Heidi G. Gutekenst	5/2026
Lamikco Magee	5/2026

Select Board

James Barry	5/2023
Ronald Aponte	5/2024
Margaret Louraine	5/2024
Edward Boscher	5/2025
Jennifer Turner	5/2025
Lesa J. Lessard Pearson	5/2026

Town Clerk

Theresa Camerlin	5/2024

BELCHERTOWN · MASSACHUSETTS
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2023 APPOINTED OFFICERS

Affordable Housing Tax Abatement Review Committee

Doug Albertson, Town Planner	Final Report
Gary Brougham, Town Admin.*(Ret. 6/3/23)*	Final Report
Steven Williams *(Appt. 6/4/23)*	Final Report
Jennifer Turner, Select Board	Final Report
Lisa Banner, Treasurer/Collector *(Ret. 3/10/2023)*	Final Report
Amie Chrzanowski, Treasurer/Collector *(Appt. 3/6/2023)* *(Res 9/14/23)*	Final Report
Sarah Mann *(Appt. 10/27/23)*	
John Whelihan, Director of Assessments	Final Report

Agricultural Commission

Elizabeth Vaughan	6/30/24
Eric Bernardin	6/30/25
Louise Butler	6/30/25
Lori Carver	6/30/26
Tammy Ryan	6/30/26
Pamela Monn- *Assoiate Member*	6/30/23
Tyler Bergeron - *Assoiate Member (Appt 12/7/23)*	6/30/24
Ben Feldman - *Assoiate. Member*	6/30/24
Tom McRae – *Associate Member (Res*	6/30/24

Name Office Term Expires

9/14/23)	
Tom Roberts - *Associate Member*	6/30/24
Will Shattuck- *Associate Member (Res. 9/6/23)*	6/30/24

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee

Paul Adzima, Coordinator	Final Report
Max Bock	Final Report
Gary Brougham *(ret. 6/3/23)*	Final Report
Eric LeBeau	Final Report
Steven Williams	Final Report

Animal Control Advisory Board

Chrystal Greenleaf	6/30/24
Paul Kopulos *(res.12/13/2023)*	6/30/24
Lori Carver	6/30/25
Jim Luippold *(res.11/10/2023)*	6/30/25
Carol Kasabian *(res.8/4/2023) (appt. 8/10/2023) (res.11/11/2023)*	6/30/26
Audrey Safford *(res.10/11/2023)*	6/30/26

Animal Control Officer

Anna Kuralt-Fenton	4/30/24

Assistant Animal Control Officers

Sarah Byrnes	4/30/24
Jessica LaBonte	4/30/24
Janet Lipscomb	4/30/24

Director of Assessments

John G. Whelihan	6/30/24

Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group

Doug Albertson, Town Planner	6/30/24
Ronald Aponte, Select Board	6/30/24
John Belding, Council on Aging *(passed away 12/22/23)*	6/30/24
Gary Brougham, Town Admin *(ret. 6/3/23)*	6/30/24
Steven Williams, Town Admin *(appt. 6/4/23)*	6/30/24
Jessica Langlois, Senior Center	6/30/24
Kirsten Krieger *(appt. 8/16/2023)*	6/30/24
Becky Martin, Community Mbr	6/30/24
Gretchen O'Neil, Member *(appt. 2/6/2023)*	6/30/24

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force Committee

(Created 10/2/23)

Stephanie Charbonnet – *Community member*	6/30/24
Vincent Daponte – *Police Dept. Rep.*	6/30/24

Name Office Term Expires

Joanne Land-Kazlauskas – *Community Member*	6/30/24
Charly Oliva – *Town Hall Rep.*	6/30/24
Zenaida Ortega - *Community member*	6/30/24

Belchertown Overcoming Addiction Together (BOAT)

Ronald Aponte *Select Board Rep*	6/30/23
Andrea Crete *Director of Public Health*	6/30/24
Phyllis Ducomb *School Nurse Leader (Res. 8/1/23)*	6/30/24
Rev. Michelle Grube *Pastor (Appt. 8/1/23)*	6/30/24
Kristen Hoag *Community Member*	6/30/24
Debra Keefe *School Nurse Leader (Appt. 8/1/23)*	6/30/24
Jason Krol *School Resource Officer*	6/30/24
Neil Lozier *Police Dept.*	6/30/24
Kevin Pacunas *Police Chief*	6/30/24
Jill Rossi *Community Member*	6/30/24
Nick Southwick-Hall *Member*	6/30/24

Belchertown Scholarship Fund Committee

Lorraine Alves *Pathfinder Rep*	6/30/24
Ruby Bansal *School Committee Rep*	6/30/24
Diane Brown At-large member *Community Member*	6/30/24
Brian Cameron *Superintendent of Schools*	6/30/24
Wesley Dunham *At Large Member*	6/30/24
Sarah Edwards *School Council Rep*	6/30/24
Amanda Gorham *Home Schooling Rep (Appt. 12/15/23)*	6/30/24
Mark Kopulos *Home Schooling Rep*	6/30/23

Belchertown State School Building and Grounds Committee

Kristin Davis *Citizen Rep*	6/30/24
Heidi Dollard *Historical/Cultural Rep*	6/30/24
Lesa Lessard Pearson *Select Board Rep*	6/30/24
Kirk Stephens *BEDIC Seat (Appt. 2/6/2023)*	6/30/24
Jennifer Turner *Select Board Rep*	6/30/24
Susan Tyler *Citizen Rep (Appt. 10/19/2023)*	6/30/24
Katherine Benson *Associate member*	6/30/24

Board of Health - Burial Agent & Assistant

Theresa Camerlin	6/30/24
Robert Sterling, Assistant	6/30/24

Cable Services Committee

(Disband 6/26/23)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Scott Burch		6/30/23
Aaron Kay		6/30/23
Lew Louraine		6/30/23
Jeff Mastroianni		6/30/23
Darren Wilkes		6/30/23

Civil Defense Director

Name	Office	Term Expires
John Ingram		6/30/24

Communications Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Aileen Gildea-Pyne	*(Res. 2/27/2023)*	6/30/23
Theresa Halperin	(*Res. 6/05/2023)*	6/30/23
Charlotte Cassidy	*(Appt. 1/23/2023)*	6/30/24
Ed Comeau	*(Appt. 2/13/2023)*	6/30/24
Lew Louraine		6/30/24
Chris Martin		6/30/24
Melahat Morash	*(Appt. 4/24/23)(Res. 12/22/23)*	6/30/24
Kate Nadeau	*(Appt. 8/2/23)*	6/30/24
Mark Spiro	*(Appt. 2/13/2023)*	6/30/24

Community Preservation Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Michael Hofler	*Planning Board Rep.*	6/30/24
David Lamb	*Conservation Comm. Rep.*	6/30/24
Linda Leduc	*At large Member (Res. 9/21/23)*	6/30/24
Alexander Loss	*Historical. Comm. Rep.*	6/30/24
Robert Overholtzer	*At large Member (Appt. 12/26/23)*	6/30/24
Nancy Delgado Bachman	*Housing Authority Rep*	5/2025
Megan Manitsas	*At Large Member*	6/30/25
James Quirk	*At Large Member*	6/30/25
James Natle	*At Large Member*	6/30/26

Community Emergency Response Coordinator

Name	Office	Term Expires
John Ingram		6/30/24

Conservation Commission

Name	Office	Term Expires
Stephen Garabedian		6/30/24
David Haines		6/30/24
David Lamb		6/30/24
Matthew Dibona		6/30/25
Edward Knight		6/30/25
Douglas Beach		6/30/26
Kate Kelley		6/30/26
Nate Marean	*Associate Member (Res.10/31/23)*	6/30/24
Sabrina Moreau	*Associate Member (Res. 9/14/23)*	6/30/24

Council on Aging

Name	Office	Term Expires
Robert Farrington	*(Passed 1/23/23)*	6/30/23
Karin Camihort	*Associate Member*	6/30/23
Colleen Duroshea		6/30/24
Libby Overly		6/30/24
Diane Plante		6/30/24
John Belding	*(Passed 12/22/2023)*	6/30/25
James Dowling		6/30/25
Maureen Keizer		6/30/26

Cultural Council

Name	Office	Term Expires
Candace Clement		6/30/23
Molly Robinson		6/30/24
Krish Sharman	*(Res. 3/20/2023)*	6/30/24
Jennifer Whitehead		6/30/24
Melanie Donovan		6/30/25
Audrey Anderson		6/30/26
Heidi Brunell		6/30/26
Trista Hevey		6/30/26
Kyle Toelken		6/30/26

DIF Committee

(Disband 6/12/23)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Douglas Albertson	*Town Planner*	
Lisa Banner	*Treasurer/Collector (Ret.3/10/2023)*	
Amie Chrzanowski	*Treasurer/Collector (Appt. 3/6/2023) (Res 9/14/23)*	
Gary Brougham	*Town Administrator (Ret. 6/3/23)*	
John Whelihan	*Director of Assessments*	

Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Robert Rivard	*Industrial Seat*	6/30/24
Kirk Stephens	*At Large Member*	6/30/24
Beth Maroney	*Financial Seat*	6/30/25
Jonathan Spiegel	*At Large Member*	6/30/25
William Terry	*Government Seat*	6/30/25
Richard Kump	*Real Estate Seat*	6/30/26
Vacant		6/30/26

Election Workers

Name	Office	Term Expires
Teresa Adam	*Precinct Warden*	8/31/24
Christine Babineau	*Precinct Clerk*	8/31/24
Donna Butler	*Precinct Clerk*	8/31/24
Melissa Conlin	*Precinct Clerk*	8/31/24
Bernette Daly	*Precinct Warden*	8/31/24
Michael Martin	*Precinct Clerk*	8/31/24
Erica Morrison-Brazitis	*Precinct Warden*	8/31/24
Clair Partridge	*Precinct Coordinator*	8/31/24
Carol Walker	*Precinct Warden*	8/31/24

Energy and Sustainability Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Frank Byrne		6/30/24
Patricia Krebs		6/30/24
John Piekara		6/30/24
Joanne Collins		6/30/25
Jacob Robinson		6/30/25
Chris Bambacus	*Associate Member (Appt. 2/6/23) Full Member (Appt. 4/3/23)*	6/30/26
Todd Perry		6/30/26
Mike Potishnak	*Associate Member (Appt. 4/3/23)*	6/30/24

Fair Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Loni Austin		6/30/24
William Austin		6/30/24
Cindy Brown		6/30/24
Scott Brown		6/30/24
Carla Chaisson		6/30/24
Wendy Chevalier		6/30/24
Kerri Laurenzo		6/30/24
Shawn Lindholm		6/30/24
Mark Nute		6/30/24

Family Center Committee

(Amended to 7 member committee 2/13/2023)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Natalie Santana		6/30/23
Natasha Martin		6/30/24
Jillian Fay Southwick-Hall	*(Res. 2/27/2023)*	6/30/24
Catherine Ruell	(*Appt. 3/27/2023)* (*Res. 8/24/2023)*	6/30/24
Nicole Dunham		6/30/25
Courtney Pucel	(*Res. 7/28/2023)*	6/30/25
Elizabeth Crosby	(*Appt. 3/27/2023)*	6/30/26
Jennifer Whitehead	(*Appt. 3/27/2023)*	6/30/26

Finance Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Michael Otto		6/30/23
Jonathan Ritter		6/30/24
Laurie Shea		6/30/24
Cindy Kroll	(*Res. 12/27/2023)*	6/30/25
Angela McCall		6/30/25
Michael McMorrow	(*Appt. 8/02/2023)*	6/30/26

Fire Chief

John Ingram

Forest Fire Warden

John Ingram

Green Grid Task Force

Name	Office	Term Expires
Chris Bambacus	*At Large Member*	Final Rpt
Frank Byrne	*Energy & Sust Member*	Final Rpt
John Piekara	*Energy & Sust Member*	Final Rpt
Janet Powers	*At Large Member- Never accepted position*	Final Rpt
Steve Williams	*Town Rep Member*	Final Rpt

Hampshire County Local Emergency Planning Committee

John Ingram

Historic District By-Law Commission

Name	Office	Term Expires
Craig Schumacher	*Architect Member*	6/30/24
Denise Smith	*Historical Assoc Member*	6/30/24
Jonathan Spiegel	*At Large Member*	6/30/24
Kristy Reese	*At Large Member*	6/30/25
Thomas Stockton	*Resident/Property Owner*	6/30/25
Sharon Burdick	*At Large Member*	6/30/26
Susan Mahler	*Associate Member*	6/30/24

Historical Commission

Name	Office	Term Expires
John Belding	*(Res. 12/22/2023)*	6/30/24
Jill Bierly		6/30/24
Angela Bergeron-Alexander		6/30/25
Patrick Bierly		6/30/25
Robert Lewis	*(Appt. 1/23/2023)*	6/30/26
Alexander Loss		6/30/26
Susan Tyler	*(Appt. 2/6/2023)*	6/30/26

Inspector of Animals

Name	Office	Term Expires
Thomas Flebotte		4/1/24

Inspector of Buildings

Name	Office	Term Expires
Paul Adzima	*Inspector*	6/30/26
Justin Larivee	*Assistant Inspector*	6/30/24
Chris Rice	*Assistant Inspector*	6/30/24

Inspector of Plumbing and Gas Fittings

Name	Office	Term Expires
David Fredenburgh, Jr.	*Inspector*	6/30/24
Charles Lydon, Jr.	*Assistant Inspector*	6/30/24

Inspectors of Wiring

Name	Office	Term Expires
Richard Rosazza		6/30/24
David Sedelow	*(Res. 12/19/23)*	6/30/24
Mitchell Staszko		6/30/24

Jabish Brook Middle School Building Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
Jeff Almeida	*Architect, Engineer & Construction Member*	Final Rpt
Mark Andrews	*Architect Member*	Final Rpt
Ruby Bansal	*School Cmte Member*	Final Rpt
Gary Brougham	*Town Administrator (Ret. 6/3/23)*	Final Rpt
Steven Williams	*Town Administrator*	Final Rpt

Name	Office	Term Expires
	(Appt. 6/4/23)	
Dave Burnham	*Cons. Eng. Member*	Final Rpt
Brian Cameron	*School Superintendent*	Final Rpt
Shawn Fortin	*School Dept. Rep.*	Final Rpt
Joseph Gagnon	*Community Member*	Final Rpt
Stephen Gibson	*Engineer*	Final Rpt
Heidi Gutekenst	*School Cmte Mbr*	Final Rpt
Nicole Heoux	*Teacher*	Final Rpt
Edward Kopec, Jr.	*Parent*	Final Rpt
Eric Lebeau	*School Dept. Bldg & Grounds*	Final Rpt
Robert Lewis	*Community Member*	Final Rpt
Laurie Shea	*Finance Cmte*	Final Rpt
John Ritter	*Finance Cmte Member*	Final Rpt
Thomas Ruscio	*JBMS Principal*	Final Rpt
Jennifer Turner	*Select Board*	Final Rpt
Joshua Wallace	*Parent*	Final Rpt

Lakes Committee

Name	Term Expires
Kathi Smith	6/30/24
Maureen Desabrais	6/30/25
John Soja	6/30/25
Leeanne Connolly	6/30/26
Diane Plante	6/30/26

Lamson Brook Farm Board of Directors

Name	Office	Term Expires
David Haines	*Conservation Comm. Rep*	1/31/26
Tammy Ryan	*Agricultural Comm. Rep.*	1/31/26
Jonathan Spiegel	*EDIC Rep.*	1/31/26

McPherson Garden Committee

Name	Term Expires
John Berryhill	6/30/24
Eileen Klockars	6/30/24
Sharon Marean	6/30/24
Patricia Barry	6/30/25
Louise Butler	6/30/26

Memorial Committee

Name	Term Expires
William Bowen	6/30/24
Edward Knight	6/30/24
George Archible	6/30/25
Patrick Loftus	6/30/25
Charly Oliva	6/30/26

Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee

(Created 12/8/23)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Andrea Crete	*Belchertown Board of Health Seat.*	6/30/24
Abaigael Duda	*Representative Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance Seat*	6/30/24
Gail Gramarossa	*At-Large Community Member Seat*	6/30/24
Kristin Hoag	*School Department Seat*	6/30/24
Neil Lozier	*Police Department/DART Seat*	6/30/24
Jill Rossi	*Accounting Seat.*	6/30/24
Vacant		6/30/24

Parks, Beach & Recreation Committee

Name	Office	Term Expires
William Vosburgh		6/30/24
Joshua Wallace	*(Appt. 3/27/2023)*	6/30/24
Donald Longley		6/30/25
Bill Longridge		6/30/25
Tilo Schiffer		6/30/26
Krish Sharman	*Associate Member (Res. 3/20/2023)*	6/30/23

Patrick Center Re-Use Committee

(Disband 6/12/23)

Name	Office	Term Expires
Lori Allen	*Family Center Rep*	Final Rpt
Jill Bierly	*Historical Commission Rep*	Final Rpt
Edward Boscher	*Select Board Member*	Final Rpt
Gary Brougham	*Town Administrator (Ret. 6/3/23)*	Final Rpt
Michael Knapp	*School Comm. Member*	Final Rpt
Jessica Langlois	*Council on Aging Rep*	Final Rpt
Kyle Thibeault	*Recreation Director*	Final Rpt
Steven Williams	*Town Administrator (Appt. 6/4/23)*	Final Rpt

Personnel Board

Name	Term Expires
Jessie Aquino	6/30/24
Nicole Dunham	6/30/24
Katharine Higgins-Shea	6/30/24
Sarah Porter	6/30/24
Colleen Toothill-Berte	6/30/25

Town Planner

Douglas Albertson

Planning Board – Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits

Name	Office	Term Expires
Wendy Goulet		6/30/23
Leonard Bilodeau	*(Appt. 10/1/23)*	6/30/24

Planning Board Associate Member

Name	Office	Term Expires
Mark Plante	*(Appt. 9/28/23)*	6/30/24

Police Chief

Kevin Pacunas

Police Department Lieutenants

Name	Term Expires
Bruce Jenks	6/30/24

Name Office	Term Expires

Police Department – Sergeants (Full-time)

Dennis Fitzgerald	6/30/24
Jared LaValle	6/30/24
Neil Lozier	6/30/24
Robert Mann *(Appt. 7/1/23)*	6/30/24
Christopher Mayo	6/30/24

Police Department – Patrol Officers (Full-time)

Michael Letendre	6/30/23
Robert Mann*(Appt. Sergeant 7/1/23)*	6/30/23
Valerie Austin	6/30/24
Adam Brougham	6/30/24
Draine Colon-Rivera	6/30/24
Vincent Daponte	6/30/24
Garrett Fortin (*Appt. 2/3/2023)*	6/30/24
Andrew Hulse	6/30/24
Michael Jablonski	6/30/24
Nicholas Jimenez	6/30/24
Jason Krol	6/30/24
Austin Marrone	6/30/24
Matthew Menard	6/30/24
Jason Robinson	6/30/24
Michael Roney	6/30/24
Hanna Sweet	6/30/24
Daniel Welch	6/30/24
Cameron Woodward	6/30/24

Procurement Officer

Gary L. Brougham *(Ret. 6/3/23)*
Steven Williams *(Appt. 6/4/23)*
Jill Rossi, Asst. Procurement Officer

Public Works Director

Steven J. Williams *(Res. 6/3/23)*

Linda Leduc *(Appt. 9/11/23)*

PVPC Joint Transportation Committee

Gary Brougham *Alternate member (Ret. 6/3/23)*	6/30/23
Steven Williams *Representative (Appt.6/4/23)*	6/30/24
Douglas Albertson *Alternate member*	6/30/24
Linda Leduc *(Appt. 9/11/23)*	6/30/24

PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) Representatives

Douglas Albertson	6/30/24
Elizabeth Pols	6/30/24

PVTA Advisory Board

Brian O'Leary	6/30/24

Name Office	Term Expires

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corp.

Quabbin Valley Health District

Andrea Crete –Dir. of Public Health	6/30/24

Physician Advisor to Board of Health

Scott Siege, MD	6/30/24

Registrars

Theresa Camerlin	5/2024
Nancy Wright	3/31/24
MaryCatherine Knight, Chair	3/31/25
Lynn Sikes (*Appt. 3/13/2023) (Res. 9/11/23)*	3/31/26
Judith Izatt *(Appt. 12/11/23)*	3/31/26

Assistant Registrar of Voters

Belchertown High School Rep - Vacant

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Paul Adzima	6/30/24

Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer

Gary Brougham *(Ret. 6/3/23)*	
Steven Williams *(Appt. 6/4/23)*	Period of Employment
Lisa Banner, Alternate *(Ret 3/10/2023)*	
Joanne Misiaszek (*Appt. 3/6/2023)*	Period of Employment

Superintendent of Insect Pest Control

Steven Williams *(Res. 9/11/23)*	6/30/23
Linda Leduc *(Appt. 9/11/23)*	6/30/24

Tax Title Property Committee

Douglas Albertson *Town Planner*	Final Rpt
Gary Brougham *Town Admin (Ret. 6/3/23).*	Final Rpt
John Whelihan *Dir. of Assessments*	Final Rpt
Steve Williams *Town Admin. (Appt.6/4/23)*	Final Rpt
Sarah Fortune *Conservation Administrator (Appt. 8/1/23).*	Final Rpt

Trail Stewardship Council

Jane Bryden *Landowner Rep.- Never accepted position*	6/30/23
Douglas Albertson *Town Alternate*	6/30/24

Name Office Term Expires

Sarah Fortune *(Appt. 4/12/2023)*	6/30/24

Treasurer/Collector

Lisa Banner *(Ret. 3/10/23)*	6/30/25
Amie Chrzanowski *(Appt. 3/6/2023) (Res 9/14/23)*	6/30/25
Sarah Mann *(Appt. 10/27/23)*	6/30/25

Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Jane Wolfe *(Ret. 6/30/23)*	6/30/24
Sarah Mann *(Appt. 6/27/2023)(Res. 10/27/23)*	6/30/24
Kayleigh Goodrow *(Appt. 12/15/23)*	6/30/24

Deputy Collector

Arthur Jones	12/31/24

Town Accountant

Jill Rossi	6/30/25

Assistant Town Accountant

Kimberly O'Grady	6/30/24

Town Administrator

Gary L. Brougham *(Ret. 6/3/23)*
Steven Williams *(Appt. 6/4/23)*

Town Administrator Search Committee

(Created 2/4/2023) (Disband 6/1/23)

Kenneth Elstein	Final Report
Michael Knapp	Final Report
Joanne Misiaszek (*Res. 5/4/2023)*	Final Report
Terry Nagel	Final Report
Elizabeth Vaughan	Final Report

Assistant Town Clerk

Robert Sterling	6/30/24

Town Counsel

KP LAW

Trench Permitting Authority

Paul Adzima
Steve Williams, Alternate

Veterans' Graves Officer

Vincent Viglione	3/31/27
Kathleen Wood, Assistant	3/31/27

Veterans' Services Agent

Charly Oliva	4/30/24

Name Office Term Expires

Veterans' Services Advisory Board

Charly Oliva	Period of Employment
Janet Jourdain	6/30/23
Keith Poulin *Associate Member*	6/30/24
Larry Raine *At Large Member*	6/30/24
George Archible	6/30/25
Kenneth Haughey (*Appt. 3/6/2023)*	6/30/25
Victor Robidoux (*Appt. 3/6/2023)*	6/30/25
William McClure *At Large Member*	6/30/26
Donald Longley *At Large Member*	6/30/26

Willard Stebbins Trust Fund

Edward Boscher
Peg Louraine
Thomas Stockton

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark Hebert (*Res. 6/21/2023)*	6/30/24
Brian Gibbons	6/30/25
Jennifer Sharrow	6/30/26
Dino Brunetti *Associate Member*	6/30/24
Russell Sabadosa *Associate Member*	6/30/24
Wayne Versace *Associate Member*	6/30/24

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Paul Adzima	6/30/24

SELECT BOARD

Belchertown began the fiscal year on July 1, 2023 with a smooth transition to our new Town Administrator Steve Williams. Over the preceding several years, the Select Board has taken measured steps to grant more day-to-day authority to the Town Manager role, which should be signed into law sometime in 2024. This welcome change will allow Belchertown to focus on identifying and adopting Massachusetts municipal best practices for many years to come.

Belchertown voters have many significant questions ahead. In addition to the customary budget questions at the May Annual Town meeting, there will also be the next steps of answering two additional questions relating to the construction of a new Middle School serving grades 6-8. The competitive Massachusetts School Building Authority process is estimating its financial contribution to the project to be around \$30-\$50 million of an estimated \$120 million project at the time of this report if the voters approve the project. These numbers will gain more clarity over the coming months. The unfortunate upward pricing (initially rising due to Covid and later inflation) has not subsided and nor is it expected to.

The ARPA funding provided by the Federal and State Governments are almost depleted. The Select Board has done a reasonable job at limiting the increasing of the annual operating budget by adding recurring costs from the ARPA pool of funds.

One of the other key questions is how to revive or maintain existing building space with low to no utilization. Our Town Administrator and Buildings and Grounds Committee will be looking at these spaces to better figure out a game plan moving forward.

The Select Board continues to assist the Town Administrator with the Division of Local Services projects and have embarked on a forecasting tool that, when up and running, should help the Administrator and Finance teams strengthen the annual approach to budget season.

Grant coordination, which is a somewhat new concept for Belchertown, continues to gain momentum and the Select Board recognizes the Department Heads and their team's successes in reaching out and going after the varying grant programs. This needs to remain a focus going forward.

The Communications Committee along with the IT Department has taken a huge step this year in improving our web site presence as a communications tool for the entire Town.

Finally,. Belchertown is making significant progress on many longstanding issues with the outstanding help of the many dedicated employees that serve Belchertown professionally.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Boscher, Select Board, Chair

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

2023 was a very productive and exciting year in the administration of the Town, it was also a year defined by transition. Our long standing Town Administrator, Gary Brougham retired after serving the residents of Belchertown for 30-years, the first five of which were at the Department of Public Works. His legacy will continue to shape our Town well into the future.

In March, Treasurer/Collector Lisa Banner retired after 37 years of service and in July, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Jane Wolf retired after 22 years of service, both of whom will be missed for their dedication and expertise.

In May, Jim Barry stepped down after serving Belchertown as an elected official, beginning in 1998 as a member of the Planning Board before moving to the Select Board.

The loss of key figures opened the door for a new generation of leadership. I assumed the role of Town Administrator leaving behind a long career at the Department of Public Works, Sarah Mann became the new Treasurer/Collector, Kayleigh Goodrow became the new Assistant Treasure/Collector, Linda Leduc is now the Public Works Director, Sarah Fortune is the new Conservation Administrator filling a position that was vacated in 2022, and Lesa Lessard-Pearson is the newest member of the Select Board.

We have benefitted greatly from the talent and institutional knowledge of our former and current employees and I look forward to their continued contributions through this next chapter of our history.

2023 was also a productive year with many notable accomplishments. We successfully relocated the Veterans Agent's office from the Town Hall to the Freedom Center, located on Berkshire Ave, to provide more accessibility for our veterans. The former Berkshire and Meadow School buildings were advertised for lease and/or sale with bids awarded to two entities. The building at 51 State Street was deemed beyond repair and funding for demolition was put in place. The Fire Department received a new ambulance and a grant to replace the exhaust system in the station. The Disc Golf Course located behind the Constantino Recreation Area was finally open with the support of $8,500 ARPA funding. The Computing offices were relocated out of the Tadgell School building to north wing of the Recreation building.

The Select Board also formed two new committees: the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Taskforce met in October and, the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee will meet in 2024.

In partnership with the Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC) and MassDevelopment, a new 300-foot cul-de-sac was constructed in the Carriage Grove redevelopment area to provide access for commercial development on the southeast side of the former Belchertown State School Campus.

2023 was also the year to begin a new financial strategy for the Town. We began by working with the Select Board and Finance Committee to create a policy to govern how Free Cash is utilized, we engaged the Division of Local Services to provide assistance, and we began the next fiscal year's budget process in early December rather than in late winter.

For every success, there were various challenges, as is the case every year. In spite of many challenges, Departments continued to provide essential services to every corner of town. As I reflect on all the activities that made 2023 great, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the Belchertown residents who have volunteered their time and offered their wisdom to the organizations and events that make this town shine. I also want to thank the staff worked diligently to address each issue as time and resources allow. I am grateful for your energy and support for Belchertown. Your efforts are seen and appreciated. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven J. Williams
Town Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is an advisory committee that collaborates with the Town Manager, Town Accountant and Select Board members throughout the budget process cycle to gather information and data to make sound financial recommendations on the fiscally related Warrants at Annual and/or Special Town Meeting. In addition, current year revenue and expenditures are reviewed by the committee on a monthly basis. The Finance Committee strives to maintain transparency in the budget process, be collaborative, open-minded, and consider first and foremost what is best overall for the town and its schools in its fiscal related recommendations as well as what is sustainable operationally.

	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Income		
Local Receipts	$3,436,692	$3,460,978
Property tax levy	$32,019,264	$33,370,145
State funding	$17,316,119	$17,646,414
Enterprise & other sources	$4,762,804	$5,891,615
Expense		
State assessments/offsets	$2,493,153	$2,557,371
Schools	$32,491,530	$34,032,927
Town	$12,291,222	$12,929,220
Fixed costs	$7,756,240	$8,008,377
Enterprise funds	$2,502,734	$2,841,257

Laurie Shea, Chair
John Ritter, Vice-Chair
Angela McCall, Clerk
Michael McMorrow, Member

ADA COMMITTEE

The American with Disabilities Committee Members for the year 2023 were Paul Adzima, ADA Liaison; Steven Williams, Town Administrator, Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works; Eric LeBeau, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Max Bock, Maintenance Department.

The Committee meets throughout the year as necessary.

The ADA Committee responds to any complaint on ADA related issues, and monitors the progress of the resolution of those issues.

The ADA Committee invites the public's opinion and concerns to help promote a safe environment for those who are disabled.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Agricultural Commission mourns the loss of our first Chairperson, Will Shattuck. Will was instrumental in the organization of the Agricultural Commission was a dedicated voice for all Farmers not just those in Belchertown.

We continue to support the annual Farmers Market on the Common and educational opportunities for all sizes of local agricultural enterprises. Tammy Ryan continues as our representative to the Lampson Brook Farm project to ensure the agricultural voice is heard as the project moves forward.

The commission has plans for continued support and education for the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elly Vaughan, Chairman

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animals at Belchertown Animal Control on January 1, 2023	Cats: 6	Dogs: 1
Animals in Foster on January 1, 2023:	Cats: 2	Dogs: 1

TOTAL ANIMALS IN: 164

- Animals Brought In Via Stray and Owner Surrender	Cats: 32	Dogs: 44
	Owls: 2	Goose: 1
	Rabbit: 2	Bird: 1
	Raccoon: 1	Porcupine: 2
- Animals Born in Shelter	Cats: 6	Dogs: 0
- Animals Dead on Arrival	Cats: 3	Dogs: 1
- Animals Transferred In	Cats: 32	Dogs: 1
- Animals Returned from Adoption	Cats: 3	Dogs: 0
- Animals Returned from Fostering	Cats: 22	Dogs: 4

TOTAL ANIMALS OUT: 160

- Animals Adopted	Cats: 57	Dogs: 6
	Bird: 1	Rabbit: 1
- Animals Dead on Arrival	Cats: 3	Dogs: 1
- Animals Died on Shelter	Cats: 2	Dogs: 0
- Animals Euthanized	Cats: 1	Dogs: 4
- Animals Going into Foster	Cats: 23	Dogs: 4
- Animals Returned to Owners	Cats: 6	Dogs: 28
- Animals Transferred to Other Shelters	Cats: 7	Dogs: 8
	Owls: 2	Goose: 1
	Raccoon: 1	Rabbit: 1
	Porcupine: 2	
Animals at Belchertown Animal Control at the end of 2023:	Cats: 5	Dogs: 0
Animals in Foster at the end of 2023:	Cats: 3	Dogs: 0

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

At the municipal election in May, Loring “Mike” Caney was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Assessors. Raymond Goff and Donald Minney remain members of the Board. The Assessors welcomed Shawn Paxton as the department’s new technical assistant.

Although the costs associated with operating municipal government continue to rise, the Assessors Office works within the constraints of a “level service” budget to provide the town with accurate valuations and financial data.

Important figures in establishing Belchertown’s fiscal year 2023 municipal budget included:

FY23 Total Taxable Value	$1,975,278,128
Town Meeting Appropriations	$58,664,596
Estimated Receipts/State Aid	$26,428,057
Tax Levy	$32,236,539
Levy Limit and Debt Exclusions	$32,265,003
FY23 New Growth	$470,738
FY23 Tax Rate	$16.32

The Board acted upon timely filed tax abatement applications along with exemption applications for disabled veterans, elderly, widowed and legally blind property owners.

The number of tax exemptions are as follows:

Senior/Widowed	20
Disabled Veterans/surviving spouses (of disabled veterans)	184
Blind (certified by MA Commission for the Blind)	2

The Board also reviewed and acted upon "chapter" applications for land devoted to agricultural/horticultural, recreational or forestry uses. The Board continues to perform field reviews as needed.

The Assessors conducted a valuation update of all real and personal property in fiscal year 2024. Due to improvements of market conditions, the town's property values increased. The Board is confident that all classes of property are valued according to the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue's certification standards.

The assessing staff continues to value new residential developments such as Hickory Hills off George Hannum Road and Summer Hill condominiums along Daniel Shays Highway.

In accordance with Department of Revenue guidelines, the assessing staff conducted interior and exterior inspections of the town's multi-family homes.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Minney, Chair
Raymond Goff
Loring Caney
Board of Assessors

BELCHERTOWN AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group established in 2021 prioritizes and implements actions listed in the "Age & Dementia Friendly Belchertown Community Assessment and Action Plan". The Belchertown Council on Aging leads this group, coordinates meetings, and collaborates with Department Heads, local businesses, and private citizens who comprise the group. The Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group meets four times per year to prioritize projects, monitor progress, and track outcomes.

The Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Community Assessment and Action Plan is a living document. It entails the steps required to achieve an Age & Dementia Friendly Community designation. Upon AARP's approval, this action plan takes effect and the group will begin implementing its steps.

The goal of this group is to design and implement policies, procedures, and services that enhance the quality of life; and enable those who live, work, and play in our community, to do so safely and independently regardless of age, income, or ability.

With support from the Alzheimer's Association, the group completed training Town staff on Dementia. A morning and evening training entitled "Dementia and your Community: A Training for Professionals" was offered to all Town staff via Zoom.

The next item this group will be looking at is placing benches along the newly constructed Route 202 sidewalks as well as Carriage Drive.

Below are those joining the Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group with a 3-year term commitment thus far:

Jessica Langlois, Executive Director-Belchertown Senior Center
Linda Leduc, Director-Belchertown DPW
Doug Albertson, Town Planner, Town of Belchertown
Kirsten Krieger, Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District
John Belding, COA Advisory Board Chair/Community Member
Becky Martin, Community Member
Gretchen O'Neil, Community Member

BELCHERTOWN COMMUNITY TELEVISION

The purpose of Belchertown Community Television is to operate Community Channels 191, 192, and 193 on the public access television system in Belchertown. BCTV provides training and technical assistance in the use of video production equipment, access to video resources, and time on the access channels. Facilities are available for the production and presentation of live or taped programming of interest to the Belchertown community. BCTV's role is to provide resources, training, and assistance while remaining content-neutral regarding their use.

We continue to broadcast a wide range of government, community, and educational programs of interest to Belchertown. We also continue to need volunteers. What we can produce is limited to the time these volunteers are available; more volunteers equal more local programming.

Channel 193 - BCTV Weather Station

The BCTV weather information program is broadcast on Charter channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station. This service operates 24 hours a day.

Government Access Programs – BCTV broadcasts the following Town Boards, Committees, and/or Commissions:

Select Board
Planning Board
Conservation Commission
BEDIC
Council on Aging
Zoning Board of Appeals
Agriculture Commission
Board of Health
Annual Town Meeting
School Committee
Special Town Meeting
Energy and Sustainability Committee
Communications Comm.

Educational Access Programs – Educational programs being broadcast on BCTV include:

In a normal school year, we would have covered the following events:

Most BHS Band Concerts
Most BHS Drama Presentations
Most CHCS Band Concerts
BHS Annual Graduation Ceremony
Swift River and Chestnut Hill school productions

Community Access Programs – BCTV continues to cover as many community events as possible. A partial list includes:

The Summer Community Band Concerts
The Annual Belchertown Fair
The Annual Fair Parade
Some Holiday events
Winter Light Night
Veteran Day Ceremonies
Memorial Day Ceremonies

Weekly Church Services on BCTV include:

St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
Christ Community Church
Hope United Methodist Church

BCTV Streaming Service and Archive Service

Use **https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown?page=HOME** to access streaming Channels 191 and 192.

Archived shows can be viewed by going to the Town Web page (Belchertown.org) and clicking on Residents, then click on BCTV, and then Watch Previous Meetings.

Shows produced outside of Belchertown:

Educational Crafting with Charlotte	Conversations with Pakman

Accomplishment and Goals

BCTV's goal each year is to maintain and upgrade our existing facility and to get new volunteers trained and independently operating. It is our hope to cover as many community events as we can and then broadcast them as professionally as we can. Community events presented professionally make us an asset in Belchertown. BCTV is always in need of volunteers. There are meetings we simply cannot cover, repair work that waits for months, and skills we do not possess that we could use.

In June, the town signed a 10-year contract with Spectrum. The new contract will successfully fund Belchertown Community TV for the next 10 years.

In October, BCTV signed a contract with Key Code Media of New Hampshire to replace the Leightronix operating system the station had been using over the last 30 years with a new Castus system. Leightronix no longer supported community tv with operating equipment. The new Castus system offered better software and improved video and audio capability for BCTV.

BCTV does have a small but extremely dedicated staff. Below is the complete list of the folks who make up BCTV and many but not all the shows they tape, edit, burn to DVDs, upload to Sprout for the citizens of Belchertown, along with some of their other contributions to BCTV:

Pat Barry – BEDIC, Board of Health, upload shows to Sprout
Dan Beaudette – ZBA, Selectmen, Council on Aging, Agricultural Commission
Mary Ann Brennen – Planning Board, Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meeting, and other events
Keith Bettencourt – Conversations with Pakman
Charlotte Cassidy – producer of Educational Crafting with Charlotte, a children friendly show
Louise Christ – BCTV Scheduler, St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, Concerts on the Common
Shawn Lindholm – All School Activities at BHS, JBMS, and Crocker Farm
Frank Lommano – BCTV IT Manager, all live BCTV shows, Conservation Commission

Respectfully Submitted,
Lewis Louraine, Station Manager

BELCHERTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The Belchertown Economic Development Industrial Corporation (BEDIC) was formed by Town Meeting vote in 1982. The Select Board appoints 7 members with staggered, three-year terms. Formed under Mass. General Laws Chapter 121C, BEDIC 's mission is to develop and implement a Town Meeting approved economic development plan on the former Belchertown State School property creating real estate investment and jobs. Over the years, the BEDIC has sold and leased parcels, which hold more than 14 business buildings providing jobs and revenue for the Town. The BEDIC has also transferred to the Town over 80 acres for use as recreation areas and conservation. Mass Development continues as master developer with participation by BEDIC, the Select Board and the Planning Board. From Fiscal Year 2018 through FY 22, the BEDIC was awarded $2,319,000 in grants for site improvement, roads and site clearing. We have also brought to the Town another $5 million in funding from the Commonwealth to clear buildings, develop infrastructure and promote development. To date, through MassDevelopment, BEDIC has spent almost $9.5 million in State funds for remediation and demolition of twenty structures including the cottages, the large School Building, Dorm G, the infirmary, the hospital, cafeteria, laundry and storage buildings, totaling around 300,000 sqf.

Calendar year 2023 began with the construction of the Industrial Drive. Several small buildings were demolished, a new road base was installed with infrastructure and the Industrial roundabout was completed, which opens up 15 acres of light industrial land to the East of Carriage Dr. Mass Development continues to market the Industrial sites as the new Industrial Drive advances to Town Meeting for acceptance. BEDIC and MassDevelopment are now actively marketing an additional 7.5 acres for commercial and mixed-use purposes.

The BEDIC is working with MassDevelopment to further plans of BRISA Development LLC for a multi-phased development of the West side of the property to conform with the approved Master Plan and established design standards. BRISA Development presented Phase 1a Design Plans to the Planning Board. The mix of Town Homes and Workforce housing would occupy the street frontage along Carriage Drive past the roundabout and to the West to link up to walking trails at the rear of the parcel. This project is being designed to Net-Zero standards. BRISA Development's Phase 1b plan is to repurpose the Administration Building into a Museum space, with additional space at the second building facing Berkshire Av., adjacent to Town owned buildings.

The next big item is removing the Power Plant. The various pieces have come together, including a Brownfield Grant and a Site Readiness Grant. Mass Development has been instrumental in raising the visibility of this site on the State's to do list. It is our goal to remove the Power Plant in 2024.

Parcel D off Rt. 21 is under consideration for combining with a small piece of Town land, which would allow the EDIC to "square" the entire 35 acre to make it more marketable.

Directors:	William Terry, Chairman	Kirk Stephens, Vice Chairman
	Jonathan Spiegel, At Large Seat	Bob Rivard, Industrial Seat
	Beth Maroney, Financial Seat	Richard Kump, Real Estate

BELCHERTOWN FAMILY CENTER

The Belchertown Family Center was formerly located at 51 State Street and would open several times each week to provide playgroups for children aged 0-5 and their caregivers, as well as access to the Community Closet any time the Center was open. In the first half of 2023, the Family Center Committee offered support for families including a caregiver networking event, a car seat safety event, music and movement events during school vacation week, and began to establish a presence at the Belchertown Farmers Market. The Committee also worked to find ways to provide a space for grieving following the passing of longtime Center Director and face of the Family Center, Lori Allen in March 2023.

The later half of the 2023 calendar year was marked by a fair amount of upheaval for the Family Center and the Committee, due primarily to the closure of the building at 51 State Street, and subsequent decision to demolish the building, leaving the Family Center uncertain about how and where to operate.

The mission of the Belchertown Family Center is to provide a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment for children and their caregivers. In the first half of the 2023 calendar year, while the Center was operational, we fulfilled this mission through a partnership with CES to provide playgroups, the opening of the Community Closet, a donation based resource for families which provided free toys, gear and supplies, a car seat safety event offered in partnership with the Belchertown Police Department, and other play and learning opportunities through partnerships with members of our community and members of the BFC Committee.

The BFC has been fortunate enough to be offered space in the Recreation Center and plans to utilize other spaces in town in order to continue offering valuable programming for families in Belchertown. The Belchertown Family Center Committee is working to develop a schedule and find partners in the community and volunteers to host and lead education and playgroup programs. Going forward, it is unlikely that the Belchertown Family Center will host CES programming on a regular or ongoing basis. In January, the Family Center will host a Winter Gear and toy swap at Town hall.

For more information, please reach out to BFC Committee representative Natasha Martin at nlfarrington@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page.

BELCHERTOWN OVERCOMING ADVERSITY TOGETHER (BOAT)

Belchertown Opioid Addiction Task Force was formed in 2016 in response to the need for local leadership action to address and combat the ongoing opioid crisis. The Task Force is comprised of local officials and various members of the community, each offering unique experience and expertise critical to the development of comprehensive plans to tackle substance use at the local level. In 2016, the death rate for opioid overdose related deaths was 42,249 persons across the United States. This death rate has risen 62% since and has resulted in 112,000 deaths in a 12 month period ending in July 2023. This is an average of 307 deaths per day annually. Of these overdose deaths in 2023, there were 2,357 opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts. Specifically in Belchertown, 12 people passed away from opioid related deaths in Belchertown.

In 2019, BOAT responded to the increase in opioid-related deaths and sought to include prevention, treatment and recovery into their strategic plan and mission statement, hence, changing the coalition name to Belchertown Overcoming Addiction Together. BOAT focused on recognizing that addiction is a public health issue and it is important for local communities to take a proactive approach to preventing and reducing substance use. At that time, BOAT and Belchertown Public Schools joined forces and applied for and received a 5 year Federal Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant. The DFC grant is a Federal 5-year grant initiative out of the National Office of Drug Control Policy & Center for Disease Control. The grant provides funding to community based coalitions that organize and implement strategies to prevent youth substance use. Funding is earmarked specifically for substance use prevention efforts among Belchertown's youth population with focus on alcohol, tobacco/vaping, and marijuana use. Additionally, 12 community members serve as DFC Sector Representatives. In May 2021, Kris Hoag was hired as the Program Director/Project Coordinator of DFC, as well as, a Community Engagement Coordinator, who has since been replaced by Alene Motta in March 2023. In fall 2021, Belchertown Understanding Obstacles in Youth (BUOY) was born as the "Prevention Arm" of BOAT with its primary focus to strengthen collaboration among community structures and systems to reduce substance use among youth. BUOY's vision was to create a substance use prevention program supported by the community. BUOY and BOAT worked in concert toward a common goal of building and sustaining a safe, healthy and drug-free community in collaboration with schools, community partners, parents and students who strive to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

In December of 2022, BOAT/BUOY conducted a daylong Prevention 101 training with DFC Sector Representatives and BOAT members. Dorothy Chaney, Master Trainer for the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, orchestrated this training and placed special emphasis on understanding the role of coalitions in using evidence-based practices, programs and policies to achieve community-level change. A total of 13 participants attended and were provided with an in-depth understanding of the history and research of substance prevention. The training included reviewing data, analyzing the 12-month action plan and logic model and gaining an in-depth understanding of the role of a DFC Sector Representative and coalition member. This was highly successful, as members became increasingly active in their roles in 2023, participating at several events and serving as members on BOAT sub-committees. Initially, Belchertown Public Schools Drug-Free Communities was named BUOY, which distinguished them as the "prevention arm" of BOAT. However, as a result of the Prevention 101 training and evolution of BOAT (being a member increase from 18 members in 2021 to 65 members in 2023) and building tremendous connections and partnerships across the county, we came to an understanding that we are more effective in our community as a unified team. Additionally, the term "addiction" is considered to be a stigmatizing term and it is important that we stay current with anti-stigma initiatives. Voting members of BOAT, with extensive input from coalition members and guests, voted on 3/8/2023 for an official name change to ultimately combine BOAT and BUOY back into one united team. The name was changed to Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together. This terminology is not controversial and allows us to explore a more holistic approach to our work. With the name change, there will be no confusion from the community between the original BOAT and BUOY organizations, as essentially, they are one in the same. The new mission statement for BOAT is the following:

BOAT recognizes that substance use disorder and mental health conditions are public health issues. We support and implement a proactive approach through prevention education, harm reduction strategies, reducing stigma, and ease of access to treatment.

BOAT has been hard at work this year building relationships within the community and county with partner organizations, resulting in collaborations with over 55 non-profit organizations. Partnerships include, but are not limited to: Hampshire Hope, Quaboag Substance Use Alliance, Clean Slate, Gandara, HEALing Communities, Quabbin Health District, Amherst Survival Center, Ware & Amherst Resource Center, The Garden: A Center for Grieving teens and youth, Clapp Memorial library, Behavioral Health Network, Palmer and Ware Domestic Violence Task Force, Pioneer Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition, Pioneer Valley Tobacco Control, Criterion Child Enrichment, Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY), 3 local religious organizations, Estoy-Aqui- Bii-lingual Suicide Awareness for Suicide Prevention Coalition, and the Belchertown Recreation Department. Further, BOAT has partnered with Tapestry, who provided mobile services for the first few months of 2023. Due to lack of staffing, they were unable to continue. However, we are collaborating with them to implement future services. CleanSlate opened in Belchertown and is a medication-assisted treatment organization for opioid and alcohol addiction and 2 employees are now members of BOAT. These collaborations, along with partnerships with the Belchertown Police Department and its Drug Addiction & Recovery Team (DART), BOAT has successfully maintained and expanded resources to help serve residents affected by substance use disorders, helped and supported loved ones, promoted prevention, and educated the community on addiction, harm reduction, and prevention.

BOAT's objectives are not only to provide local support and resources, but to also serve as a catalyst for awareness, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery locally. BOAT is a collaborative and communicative organization, meeting 12 times over the last year to discuss and plans for upcoming events, policy change, current issues around substance prevention, treatment and recovery and mental health and wellness, and to maintain our focus on our mission statement and DFC 12-month action plan. Further, BOAT developed an Umbrella of Wellness Subcommittee, which consisted of 3 BOAT members and 3 DFC Sector Representatives. The UOW subcommittee continues to meet bi-monthly, meeting 19 times over the last year, and is planning the 3rd Annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair for May 4, 2024.

Belchertown Police Department's DART team is an integral part of BOAT in assisting with fatal and non-fatal overdoses, crisis and non-crisis situations, and supporting families and individuals to obtain the necessary resources for recovery, mental health and wellness, and grief services. In 2023, Belchertown Police Department reported 100 substance-related police encounters including the following: Operation Under the Influence encounters, 16 for alcohol and 1 for cannabis; 8 encounters with juveniles under the age of 18; 44 transports to Wing Hospital due to alcohol intoxication – 23 were alcohol related, 6 were Suicidal Ideation by taking substance (i.e. bleach & Tylenol, cough medication, alcohol mixed with Advil)- 2 were juveniles, 8 transports were heroin/opioid related- resulting in 2 overdose deaths, 14 non-fatal overdoses, and 2 were for cannabis. Other substances involved in transports included: Cocaine, Suboxone, Xanax, Cough Medication, Oxycodone, LSD and Crack. Naloxone was utilized by the DART team/BPD 9 times and 7 times by community members (i.e. a co-worker, family residents, and 2 bystanders/residents). It is important for Belchertown to continue distributing Naloxone, as it is utilized in the community at large. The total number of youth under 21 involved in substance related incidents were 8 (18% of all calls). Further, of the transports to Wing Hospital, there were 2 overdose deaths. A total of 3 people were taken into custody under Section 35. Section 35 is a Massachusetts law that allows a qualified person to request a court order requiring someone to be civilly committed and treated involuntarily for an alcohol or substance use disorder; 8 people received a Section 12. Section 12 is a transportation order to a hospital. Once the patient arrives at the hospital he/she must be evaluated by a physician (psychiatrist) to determine if he/she needs to be involuntarily committed for no more than 72 hours. Only the physician can make the commitment determination. Belchertown and Granby share a 24/7 Crisis Clinician from the Center for Human Development, in which 4 referrals were made over the course of 2023. Due to the rise in overdose deaths in our community and society, the Belchertown Police Department and Dart have strategically placed Naloxboxes at the following locations: Town Hall (outside), Library (downstairs bathroom), Everett Acres/Belchertown Housing Authority (office building, both bathrooms), Subway (outside bathroom), Pine Valley Plantation (2 locations).

In fall 2023, Belchertown Police Department and The Belchertown Public Schools (with support from BOAT voting members, School and Police DFC Sector Representatives) collaborated in developing a Handle with Care (HWC) program. HWC is a school-community response to help ensure that children exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate support to help them achieve emotionally and academically. HWC provides support to a child who has been exposed to some kind of trauma. It starts when a first responder – law enforcement, fire fighter, emergency medical responder, etc. – sends a notice to a designated school official to tell them that a child has been exposed to a traumatic incident. A Handle with Care notification alerts the designated HWC school official, that a child may have been exposed to a traumatic incident such as domestic violence, child abuse, death in the family, witness to a crime, loss of home due to a house fire, etc. No specific details are shared, just one simple request: to focus on the child and handle them with care. Confidentiality is maintained at all levels. The designated HWC then contacts the building Principals and Principals contact School Staff who have direct contact with the student. School staff members, while observing the student throughout the day, will aim to be especially sensitive to student needs. Provisions for a quiet place to rest, assistance with meeting basic needs, homework/test forgiveness or delay, a visit to the school nurse or counselor, or referral to an outside agency will be provided as needed. Since October 5, 2023, 24 HWC responses have been successfully orchestrated.

BOAT continues to collaborate with the BPS on a plethora of initiatives. As an alternative to suspension (*changing consequences strategy*), the DFC Program Director and Community Engagement Coordinator created an educational/interactive Saturday school class for students caught vaping. This has been implemented once and 5 students were required to take the course. The Vaping Curriculum utilized is the Stanford Medicine You and Me Vape Free. Another initiative includes the DFC Staff providing Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training to the BPS Crisis Committee, totaling 35 attendees. YMHFA introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5- step action plan for ho to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Attendees increased their knowledge (as noted by the YMHFA post-evaluations) and confidence in approaching a youth with a mental health condition or substance use crisis and are certified in YMHFA for 3 years upon course completion and passing an exam.

Further, BOAT orchestrated the celebration of Red Ribbon Week in all schools. Red Ribbon Week highlights the importance of living a drug-free life. It presents an opportunity for parents, educators, and communities to reinforce the drug-free messages they share with their children throughout the year. This year's theme was "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free." BOAT collaborated with building Principals, distributing age-appropriate morning announcements for each school. Additionally, Student Council, Helping Hands, and BOAT members placed over 1000 ribbons around town and at all 5 schools to show solidarity and support for drug-free schools and communities. Wednesday was deemed "wear red day" where over 2000 students participated and received bracelets with the BOAT logo and RRW theme, sponsored by BOAT. Further, BOAT collaborated with Clapp Memorial Library in developing a bookmark contest for RRW for ages up to 11 and 12-18, where there were 37 entries displayed on poster boards at the library. The two winners had 100 each of their bookmarks printed and made available for the public.

BOAT continues to work with the schools in disseminating assessment and providing resources for our youth. This includes 2023 Prevention Needs Assessment, Botvin Life Skills (285 youth), SBIRT (286 youth) where 4.7% of 9th graders tested positive for substance use and CRAFFT where 11 9th graders received interventions (249 youth). BOAT distributed 150 Bureau of Substance Abuse Services *Preparing your Young Children for a healthy, drug-free future* and 150 BSAS *Talking to your middle school-aged child about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs* to CHCS for student's in Botvin Life Skills to take home for their parents. Other initiatives within the schools included the following: BOAT sponsored Chris and Kathi Sullivan from *Taylor's Message* to present Social Host Law and risks of underage drinking to over 350 parents and students as a requirement to attend Junior/Senior Prom. BOAT hosted a table and presented at the Parent/Student Athletics Night for Fall 2023 and Winter 2023/24 sports. The presentation included pertinent information from Substance Free Athletics and the effects of substances on youth brain development.

BOAT implements a 7-strategies approach for community change developed by Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, the DFC training platform. The 7 strategies approach identifies a comprehensive selection of evidence-based substance abuse prevention strategies/interventions is vital to implementing effective substance abuse prevention efforts in our community and leading to positive change. Focusing on the *Providing Information* strategy, BOAT hosted tables at 44 events, where information was made available to the public regarding vaping, cannabis, alcohol, and opioid/fake pills prevention. Events included were: Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil, with 65 people in attendance, 40 luminary bags created and 2,347 Purple Flags were planted to remember those we have lost to an overdose and renew our commitment to end overdose and related harms. Other events attended included the SOAAR 5k & Music Festival, Sober in the Park, Fall into Fun Fair, Aaron's Race, Veteran's Picnic, Belchertown Parade, Summer Eats, National Night Out, 2 Movie Nights with the Belchertown Recreation Department and Clapp Memorial Library, Trunk or Treat, Winter Night Lights, SOAAR Vintage Fair, 15 Farmer's Markets, 5 BPS open houses, and 2 Drug Take Back Days (yielding 8 large boxes of non-used medications), UOW Fair, Student Council Wellness Fair, and Red Ribbon Week activities. Over the past year74 free medication lock boxes, 40 988 Magnets, 150 Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Booklets, 48 Naloxone doses, 18 Fentanyl Test Strips, 113 Operation Parent Handbooks – Middle and HS, 87 Operation Parent Handbooks – Elementary, 50 SAMHSA Talk They Hear You Pamphlets, and a plethora of other informational resources were distributed at these information sessions over the last year.

The DFC staff posted 113 substance prevention related posts on our Facebook page, including 15 posts from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) *"Talk They Hear You"* (TTHY) Campaign. The TTHY Campaign is an underage drinking prevention national media campaign that empowers parents and caregivers to talk with children early about alcohol and other drug use. BOAT's Facebook page yields 409 followers from 10 different towns (42.8% Belchertown residents). Additionally, the DFC staff posted 34 "blurbs" in the BPS Friday Focus Newsletter: 13, specifically from TTHY, and Operation Parent, Johnny's Ambassadors, and Parents Against Vaping. Further, the Helping Hands Student group developed an Instagram page and have 11 posts and 57 followers. BOAT appeared on BCTV to provide information about RRW and published 23 press releases in the Belchertown Sentinel and/or The Reminder.

One successful event BOAT hosted was the 2nd Annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair in which over 55 non-profit organizations (a 32% increase from the prior year) hosted tables, with over 450 people in attendance (300 adults, 150 youth), over a 50% increase from the prior year. The Alex

Fisher Foundation provided a Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer, a mock teen's bedroom, where 30 adults visited to learn about substance prevention, risk and protective factors and signs of substance use and/or a mental health condition. Chris Herren, former NBA Celtics basketball player and in recovery for over 15 years, was the mainstage speaker and attracted 200+ attendees. Additionally, local business donated a total of 52 prizes for the free raffle giveaway. This year the 3rd Annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair has expanded to span a 6-hour day and featuring our main stage speaker Laura Stack, CEO and Founder of Johnny's Ambassador's. As a spin-off from the UOW fair, BOAT sponsored the Student Council in their first Wellness Fair in Spring 2023, attracting over 600 students, in which they had a speaker from the Pioneer Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Enhancing Skills and *Providing Support* are 2 more of the 7 strategies we focused on. In enhancing skills, BOAT partnered with the town Public Health Nurse to provide 3 trainings (2 at the Senior Center and 1 at Clapp Library) on Medication Safe Storage of Medications and Cannabis, as well as, information on THC and the effects on youth brain development. Other trainings BOAT staff orchestrated include: YMHFA - 7 trainings within the county, reaching 118 adults, who are now YMHFA certified. DFC Staff continues growing professionally by attending the following: A week long Dover Y2Y training to learn how to create an active student group; Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) for suicide prevention and designed to teach lay and professional "gatekeepers" the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond; BSAS Conference; HIDTA Conference; 31 Professional Development webinars/meetings; 125 meetings with partner organizations; member(s) of 8 Committees; BOAT DFC staff and the Parent, Recovery and Health Sector Representatives attend the CADCA National Leadership Forum and Mid-Year Training Institute. BOAT received the Blue Ribbon Award at the National Leadership Forum for reducing youth ease of access of tobacco/ENDS from local tobacco retailers. This award is given to 15 DFC coalitions out of over 750 DFC national coalitions. As a direct result of a year-long effort in working with local tobacco retailers and the Board of Health, 3 town policies were changed: 1. Increase in fines for selling to minors, 2. Reduction of Tobacco Licenses from 10 to 5, and 3. Elimination of blunt wraps. (*Modifying Policies Strategy*). Additionally, Belchertown BOH partnered with The Massachusetts Municipal Association, who will perform 2 compliance checks per year. The first compliance check yielded a $1000 fine to a local tobacco retailer for selling cigarettes to a minor. In the Fall 2023 the Public Health Director and DFC Program Director began research on synthetic cannabinoids, Delta-8 and Delta-10 products, and Kratom, ultimately resulting in the BOH passing new town regulations restricting these products from being sold in our stores. Belchertown is the first town in the Massachusetts to restrict the sale of Kratom.

CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, we welcomed 51,731 people into the Clapp Memorial Library to borrow materials, attend programs, read, study, attend tutoring sessions, use our public computers and photocopier, among many other reasons.

Library programming returned in full force this year. We had a total of 474 programs with 9,030 total participants. Programs included our five monthly book clubs; four weekly children's story times; musical concerts for all ages; local history lectures and workshops; gardening workshops; and teen trivia, movie, and crochet nights. Forty-six adults participated in our Winter Reading Program this year.

The Summer Reading Programs were well-executed and well-received. Participation increased with 140 people participating in the Adult Summer Reading Program. Fifty teens participated in the Teen Summer Reading Program, a new record! The theme for the children's summer reading program was "Find Your Voice," and 312 children participated. Once again, Belchertown artist Scott Fisher designed an original logo for the program. We are lucky to have such talented individuals in our community!

The Library houses a small but select collection of 25,022 print books, 3,591 audio items, 5,549 DVDs, 45 print magazine subscriptions, and 284 other items including museum passes, kits, and mobile hotspots.

Many patrons made use of these materials with circulation totaling 108,570. We also have 129,320 ebooks, 81,780 downloadable audio, 277 items in electronic format, and 4,314 electronic serial subscriptions. In addition, we offer a variety of electronic collections, most of which can be accessed from home. These include Ancestry Library, Mango Languages, *Consumer Reports*, Birds of the World, the *New York Times*, NewsBank local newspaper subscriptions, and – new this year – ComicsPlus. Usage of electronic collections exceeded 47,210 and interest in our streaming services, Kanopy and Hoopla, continues to soar.

The Library successfully applied for and received four grants. A Resilience in New England Libraries grant from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries for $6,000 allowed us to upgrade our network cabling throughout the building. The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded us $8,820 for a COVID Recovery grant. Preservation Massachusetts and the 1772 Foundation awarded us a Massachusetts Historic Preservation Matching Grant for $745 that went toward refinishing our front doors. We also received a Feasibility and Technical Assistance matching grant of $14,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to undertake a building design study.

Membership in the CW MARS resource-sharing network leverages our collection by allowing our users to borrow materials from over 160 member libraries with combined collections of over 8 million items. There were 6,400 Clapp Memorial Library cardholders, including 554 new cards issued in FY23. Staff answered nearly 6,000 reference questions and our website was visited 48,552 times.

Our historic building requires considerable ongoing care and maintenance. The Library Trustees ran a successful Annual Appeal aimed at raising funds to support the myriad needs of a historic building. Through this support, we were able to replace our automatic door and install an interior door operator to keep the building as accessible as possible. We deeply appreciate the many people who donated in support of our beautiful library and our mission to serve the residents of Belchertown.

Submitted by,
Cyndi Harbeson, Library Director

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

As Chair of the Belchertown Communication Committee, I am pleased to present our annual report, reflecting on our accomplishments since our renewed inception in November 2022 and outlining our future objectives.

This past year marked a period of foundational growth and significant achievements for our committee. We successfully established our role within the town, including multiple appearances before the Select Board, Town Administrator, and individual staff members; Demonstrating our commitment to enhancing communication and community engagement. A notable accomplishment was the reconstruction of the Town's social media policy, which, after thorough revision, received approval from the Select Board. This policy revision marks a pivotal step in modernizing our approach to digital communication.

In our efforts to improve online accessibility and user experience for our residents, we embarked on a project to revamp the Town website. Initially, we worked with Revize to fulfill this objective. However, after careful consideration, we concluded that a partnership with another provider would better serve our town's needs. Collaborating closely with the Town's IT Department, we have worked diligently to secure a new contract with CivicPlus. The upcoming website overhaul promises enhanced accessibility, usability, and a refreshed, modern aesthetic, aligning with our commitment to providing an efficient and user-friendly online resource for our community.

In our continuous efforts to enhance direct communication with the community, we have been working towards establishing a social media presence, specifically a town Facebook account. This initiative, aimed at fostering better engagement with our residents, has encountered some challenges. While our progress in this area has not been as swift as we hoped, we are committed to overcoming these hurdles. We believe in the importance of adapting and learning from these experiences to better serve our community.

Beyond digital endeavors, our committee has been a resource hub for other town departments and committees. We have provided various tools, including a press release template, a local media contact matrix, and support in web page development on the current town site. Additionally, our involvement in community events, such as the Graffiti Jam, underscores our dedication to fostering a vibrant and connected Belchertown.

All of these achievements were made possible through the dedicated efforts of six remarkable volunteers and myself, accomplished without the need for direct financial support from the town.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. A key focus will be the enhancement of Belchertown Community TV, aiming to elevate it as a vital source of local information and entertainment. The launch of the new town website is scheduled for June, coinciding with the conclusion of our current contract. This launch is not just a milestone but also a testament to our commitment to continuous improvement in our communication infrastructure.

We will also maintain and strengthen our collaboration with other town committees and departments. Our goal is to amplify our collective efforts in enhancing communication channels throughout Belchertown, ensuring that every resident feels informed, connected, and engaged in our community's growth and development.

In conclusion, the past year has been one of significant progress and learning. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission of fostering transparent, effective, and inclusive communication within Belchertown. We are grateful for the support and collaboration from all town departments, committees, and residents and we look forward to another year of serving our community with dedication and enthusiasm.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Now in its successful eighteenth year, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) continues to review project applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and make recommendations to the Town of Belchertown. These recommendations for funding are then voted on and approved at Town Meeting.

The CPA is a state tool designed to help individual towns and cities preserve and enhance their community. Belchertown voters approved CPA participation at Town Meeting on May 16, 2005. Every year 10% of the CPA funds must be allocated to each of three categories: open space, historic preservation and community housing. The remaining 70% may be allocated to any of these categories including creation of recreational facilities or rehabilitating existing ones.

Under the CPA, the state-match funds raised in Belchertown from a tax surcharge of 1.5% averages $50 per household/year. This year the state provided a 35% match. The CPA surcharge for FY 2023 was $335,149.00 and the state match was $92,000.00. However, since many CPA projects include additional outside funding sources, the financial benefits to Belchertown have greatly multiplied the town's own contributions. Over the last 16 years, there has been a total of $1,204,179 spent on the preservation of open space; $466,000 on the creation of new affordable housing opportunities; $1,142,075 on the creation and rehabilitation of recreational areas; and $1,408,959 on the preservation of historic features; all tallying $4,221,213. Leveraged funding has totaled $21,534,135 so the Town has benefited from a total of $25,486,798 in projects.

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting approved five CPA projects with a total appropriation of $131,475, with total matching funds of $169,795. These projects include:

- Gravestone restoration at South Cemetery
- Rehabilitation and Restoration of the McPherson Sensory Garden
- Installation of a Well at CHCS for Field Watering
- CHCS Athletic Field Restoration
- Pickle Ball Court Fencing at CHCS

The CPC is committed to an open public process that is fair to all prospective applicants and assures funds are allocated efficiently and effectively.

The volunteers serving on the 9-member commission for the past year include:

At-Large, James Natle, Chairman
At-Large, Megan Manitsas
Historic Comm, Alex Loss
Planning Board, Mike Hofler
Conservation, David Lamb
At-Large, Vacant, Vice-Chair
At-Large, Wilbur Quirk
Recreation, Donald Longley
Housing Auth, vacant
Selectboard Liaison, Peg Louraine

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT

The Belchertown Conservation Department has multiple mandates: implement the Wetlands Protection Act & Belchertown Wetlands Bylaw through the Conservation Commission; acquire, preserve & manage open space lands; and implement the Stormwater Management Program. The Department has met these obligations, and exceeded them, in a variety of creative and effective ways.

The Town welcomed Sarah Fortune as Conservation Administrator in 2023. Ms. Fortune performs routine and complex professional, administrative and technical duties such as updating and informing the Commission of changes in Federal and State environmental protection regulations, as appropriate. Ms. Fortune reviews all wetland permit applications and analyzes submitted information and site plans for compliance with the requirements of Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act, the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Regulations, and associated federal, state, and local regulations.

Permitting Overview

Department staff provided technical expertise and coordinated the production of 28 public hearings and meetings held by the Conservation Commission; coordinating, evaluating, and issuing decisions for 15 Requests for Determination; 10 Notices of Intent (12 total, with 2 Notices of Intent continued to 2024); 1 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation; 20 Certificates of Compliance; and 1 Extension Permit. The Department issued 3 Emergency Certificates for the protection of public health and safety. Additionally, the Department issued and pursued compliance with 4 Enforcement Notices and 1 Enforcement Order. Department staff also reviewed and commented on all septic system installation permits, site plan reviews, subdivision applications, ANR plans, and Chapter 61, 61A and 61B withdrawal requests, as well as all forest cutting plans, over 100 items. Department staff have conducted well over 300 site visits combined to monitor ongoing projects and enforcement issues.

Grant Awards

The Department, through the Conservation Administrator, has been continuing to prioritize the acquisition and management of Town open space lands. Over this calendar year, the Conservation Department, through its Administrator, has brought in nearly $500,000 in grants and is on track to continue that trend in 2024. These grants will help preserve and improve natural areas around town and make them more accessible for everyone to enjoy. The Department has worked to preserve new lands, improve the town's existing conservation areas through a variety of projects, and promote long-term goals through extensive grant awards:

The Town successfully completed the MVP Action Grant awarded in FY 2021/FY 2022 for $450,025 for the Restoration of the Scarborough Brook Headwaters for Climate Resilience. The remaining task of the project to be completed in 2023 was the successful acquisition of three (3) parcels of land totaling approximately 40-acres on Gulf and South Gulf Road which abut the previously conserved Dubois Forest. These parcels combined with the Dubois Forest consist of 112-acres which are now formally known as the "Upper Gulf Forest" which helps to fill a critical gap in the conservation of the "Quabbin to Cardigan" (Q2C) region which encompasses nearly 2 million acres and is one of the largest remaining areas of intact, interconnected, ecologically significant forest in New England.

The Town successfully completed the FY 2023 MVP Action Grant awarded for $139,500 to build on the FY2021/FY 2022 Action Grant to restore the Scarborough brook Headwaters for Climate Resilience in 2023. The second phase of the project has four (4) primary components, including: Refining the conceptual design and additional data collection for removal of the Lower Scarborough Dam and realignment of the Scarborough Brook channel leading from the existing dam spillway to the N. Gulf Road culvert; the development of 75% design and permit the replacement crossing at Gulf Road, designed to meet MA Stream Crossing Standards, with spans of 1.2x bankfull width and built-in terrestrial passage; to conduct further investigation of hydrologic impacts associated with potential removal of the Upper Scarborough Dam impoundment and design for the removal of the Upper Scarborough Dam to maintain appropriate hydrology across the site; and, to engage the community and stakeholders who utilize Scarborough Brook Conservation Area to re-envision the space and its future wildlife and recreation uses once the dams are removed. The deliverables for this grant are available for the public to view on the Conservation Commission's website under the "Climate Change: Vulnerability and Resilience" tab.

The Town was also awarded a $95,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant for the pilot program known as MVP 2.0 in 2023. The MVP 2.0 pilot program focuses less on understanding how extreme weather events will impact infrastructural and environmental assets in the community, and more on the social impacts of climate change and building social resilience to address said impacts. This grant will allow the Town to investigate factors to create vulnerability for people within the community, update the Town's community resilience priorities with a focus on equity, and developing and implementing a project that makes progress towards those priorities and builds resilience to climate change. One of the many benefits of this grant program includes guaranteed funding ($50,000) to support community resilience that could go to a wide variety of projects. Completing the MVP 2.0 process will also renew the Town's MVP Community Designation, making it eligible for future Action Grant funding and other opportunities.

2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

The Department continued to work on the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update in 2023. The OSRP is an important component of the Town's initiative to preserve and protect its open space lands and recreational resources. The plan provides both an inventory of open space and recreational lands and a set of recommendations to preserve and enhance these valuable assets. The plan also includes a complete inventory of all open space and recreational facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and prescribes changes to enhance universal accessibility and to provide equitable access to open space for all residents. The OSRP presents goals and objectives towards preserving and improving the open space and recreational opportunities, as identified by the citizens of Belchertown; these goals and objectives are outlined in a Seven-Year Action Plan that the town will use to actualize said goals and objectives. The OSRP is valid for a seven (7) year period and during which time the Town is eligible to compete for funds through the Division of Conservation Services for land acquisition, maintenance and improvement of parks, playgrounds, conservation areas and other open spaces. The Department anticipates the successful completion of the plan and the receipt of final approval in early 2024.

Other Projects

The Department has continued the advancement of the Mass Central Rail Trail, Segment 1C to pre-25-percent design plans in 2023 utilizing funding from a MassTrails Grant received in FY 2022. The project includes a paved, multi-use universally accessible trail approximately 1.17 miles long varying in width from 10 to 14-feet with a 2-foot wide dense crushed stone shoulder. Working with the Town Administrator, the project designer, and representatives from MassDOT, the Department has refined the scope of the project to focus on a portion of Segment 1C which extends from Maple Street to the Austin-Gaughn Memorial Field on George Hannum Street. The refined scope will include: a sidewalk connection from the trail starting location up State Street (Route 202) to Belchertown Center; shared use path connection to Carriage Road to provide access to an existing multi-use path and adjacent recreation/retail areas within the Carriage Grove mixed-use redevelopment; and a bridge crossing at George Hannum Street, which will greatly improve vehicular safety at the dangerous 1-way underpass on that road. Additional amenities will include universally accessible parking lots with rest areas, bike racks, information signage, and trashcans at the project start and end locations at Maple Street and George Hannum Street.

Stormwater

The Town welcomed Stephanie Sansoucy as the new Stormwater Coordinator for the Department in 2023.

The Conservation Commission is the regulatory Stormwater Authority for the Town, and through the work of the Stormwater Coordinator, is responsible for the permitting process for Belchertown's Stormwater Management Bylaw and Regulations, as well as any associated compliance and enforcement actions. These regulations serve to protect wells, watersheds and public health by establishing requirements and procedures to control the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff from construction. Twenty-four stormwater (24) management permit applications were submitted for review in 2023. Two (2) Violation Notices, and three (30 Stop Work Orders were issued for work without a Stormwater Permit. Regular construction-period inspections have continued into 2023, with approximately 170 site visits performed solely for stormwater management permits. The Stormwater Coordinator educated developers, builders, and engineers about green infrastructure and stormwater management; resulting in significant improvements in design and construction of stormwater best management practices. This education also resulted in additional use of low impact design, green infrastructure techniques, and creative stormwater management design.

The Stormwater Coordinator, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, has been continuing to achieve compliance with the Town's MS4 permit. This has been achieved through collaboration during the permitting process; increased housekeeping practices like street sweeping and cleaning of catchment basins, shared participation in the Connecticut River Stormwater Coalition, a region-wide association of other Pioneer Valley towns to achieve public outreach requirements, and assisting in identifying and developing grant proposals to help to meet MS4 requirements. No illicit discharges were detected in 2023; a continuous improvement from 2021, in which the DPW and Conservation Department detected and eliminated illicit discharge of fecal material to catch basins and public water supplies. Year 5 requirements completed included conducting a review of local regulations and guidelines relative to street design, parking lots and green infrastructure to make a list of recommendations to address barriers to green infrastructure and street and parking lot design. The Town also completed the first required stormwater retrofit identified as a MS4 Year 4 requirement, in which the Town Hall parking lot was retrofitted with Stormwater BMPs in order to mitigate impervious area from the parking lot. The Town also has approved a Stormwater Retrofit project at the Department of Public Works facility in order to mitigate impervious area and reduce pollutant loads to adjacent waterbodies in 2023; this work is expected to be completed by June of 2024.

The Stormwater Utility Fee continues to successfully and financially aid in the Town's efforts to comply with the MS4 permit and regulate Stormwater discharge to improve water quality. Stormwater runoff is the leading cause of water quality problems in Massachusetts, efforts like increased street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and drainage and structure repair and replacement are required by the EPA to regulate Stormwater discharges to improve water quality. These costs are covered by the Town's Stormwater Utility Fee, which is a user fee based on the amount of impervious surfaces on each property in town. Residents are billed at 1 unit per 1,000 SF of impervious area. The flat rate in fiscal year 2024 for a billing unit is $5.87, a great reduction from $7.39 in fiscal year 2023. The measurement of impervious area on each property was taken using GIS and aerial imagery. This year the Stormwater Coordinator continued in the effort of ensuring all billing units were accurate and up to date with new construction. The previous updates to ensure accuracy have proved significant, in fiscal year 2024, 8 abatement requests were processed and approved, similar to the 7 abatements in fiscal year 2023.

Conservation Commission Members

The following residents served on the Conservation Commission in 2023: Edward Knight, Chairman; David Haines, Vice Chairman; Steve Garabedian, Commissioner; David Lamb, Commissioner; Douglas Beach, Commissioner; Matt DiBona, Commissioner; Kate Kelley, Commissioner; Sabrina Moreau, Associate Commissioner; and Nate Marean, Associate Commissioner. The Conservation Commission would like to thank Sabrina Moreau and Nate Marean for their service, as they formally resigned their positions as Associate Members in 2023. There are vacant Associate Member positions on the Commission, and although they are non-voting positions, they provide a great opportunity for any resident who is looking to gain experience in matters such as wetlands protection, conservation commission and civic procedures, land management, and public education and outreach. The Conservation Commission encourages residents to submit a letter of interest to the Select Board and the Conservation Administrator for Associate Member positions.

The Department is looking forward to new projects for the year 2024 and feels confident that the environment is favorable within the local community to protect and maintain valuable resource areas and open space within the Town. Collaborative efforts by Town departments, Land Trusts, State agencies, private individuals and private landowners only strengthen the chances for successful open space protection within the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Fortune, Conservation Administrator
Stephanie Sansoucy, Stormwater CoordinatoR

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Belchertown Council on Aging (BCOA) is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults, aged 60 and over through services, programs, and activities that educate, assist, and advocate on their behalf.

The Council on Aging remains focused on the goal of meeting the needs of Belchertown's older citizens and continues to collaborate with various local agencies to provide information and referrals to Belchertown's growing senior population.

The Council on Aging continues to supplement the town budget with alternate funding. The Formula Grant, Federal Title IIIC, Title IIIB, as well as funding from the Older Americans Act through the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs and the Administration for Community Living all support the BCOA budget. In addition, supplemental funding is received through Belchertown Cultural Council grants. This Council is a local agency supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

Identifying and meeting the health needs of Belchertown's elder community continues to be a priority. On-site foot care provided by a registered foot care nurse and monthly blood pressure screenings conducted by Belchertown's public health nurse are ways of fulfilling this goal. Tai Chi, Healthy Bones and Balance, and Yoga classes are offered through the Council on Aging weekly. In 2023, the Center offered presentations on healthy eating from WestMass ElderCare, an onsite flu clinic, and a COVID-19 vaccination clinic were held.

Meeting the nutritional needs of Belchertown's senior community is accomplished through the daily Senior Lunch Program, Meals on Wheels program, and the monthly Brown Bag Program. There are also daily donations of bread available to all those who visit the Senior Center. During the summer the Senior Center delivers bags of fresh produce to seniors, compliments of WestMass ElderCare. The Center continues to partner with the Amherst Survival Center to bring a Mobile Food Pantry to the Center. Each month bags of groceries are delivered to the Senior Center for those who have previously registered for pick up. This program runs off of donations and therefore, no cost to the resident. A whole food plant-based educational workshop is held monthly at the Center complete with examples of vegan offerings.

Recognizing the need for a strong social network, the Council on Aging has weekly card games, craft classes, Wii Bowling, a quilting group, a veterans' group as well as monthly movies. The Center hosted many educational seminars in 2023 such as "Living with Dementia", "Home Care and Caregiver Support", and "Nutrition Myths Debunked". Multiple musical performances were held during 2023 before and after the lunch program to help combat the winter blues, keep out of the heat in the summer, and kick off the holiday season.

One of the most valuable services that the Senior Center has to offer the senior population of Belchertown is its transportation program. Fortunately, our older community members are provided an exact pick-up time, compared to a 2-hour window given by transportation companies. This helpful option can be offered because the program is operated using BCOA's vehicles. The Center also runs a grant-funded Medical Transportation Program which enables our seniors to travel outside of Belchertown for medical appointments. A companion picks up the individual at home, drives him or her to the appointment, waits for it to be completed, and then drives the client back home. A companion available to offer transportation and moral support throughout the appointment process puts the client's mind at ease.

The Social Services/Outreach Department is available to all residents of Belchertown. Whether a resident needs a personal referral, one for a family member, or is seeking help with federal and state benefits applications, the Social Services staff can help. The Senior Center is fortunate that both the Coordinator and Assistant are S.H.I.N.E (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors. They are trained and certified by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and are knowledgeable in many health insurance plans, including Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D; Medigap insurance, Medicare HMOs, retiree insurance plans, prescription drug programs, Medicaid, Medicare assistance programs and other programs for people with limited resources. Our staff can make home visits any time during the year, accept office appointments, and walk-ins, and provide phone consults to Belchertown residents. This is especially helpful during the Medicare Open Enrollment period each year.

The Council on Aging's monthly newsletter is mailed to Belchertown and out-of-town residents. It can also be viewed online or subscribed to and received via email. The Newsletter informs readers of the planned events, classes, meals, and the diverse activities that the Center is offering.

The Council on Aging Executive Board of Directors, comprised of 7 dedicated volunteers, lends support to the Council on Aging staff. The Council on Aging Board members are:

John Belding-Chair
Colleen Duroshea-Vice Chair
Libby Overly-Secretary
James Dowling
Maureen Keizer
Diane Plante

The volunteers of the Council on Aging continue to be its most valuable asset. This dedicated group can be found helping in the kitchen, teaching classes, or putting together the Brown Bags. In total, they donated over 6500 hours of free time to the Belchertown Senior Center in 2023.

The Belchertown Senior Citizens' Center Association, Inc., under the direction of President Davis Small, sponsored numerous events to aid in the social well-being of the Belchertown residents. The fundraising efforts and financial support provided to the Senior Center by this group directly impact the available programming, activities, and events.

The Council on Aging provides many essential services to Belchertown residents. Every contact is registered as a unit of service and recorded for state and local funding purposes. Listed below is a sample of the key services provided from January 2023 to November 2023.

Activities & Educational Programs:	
Health and Wellness Clinics:	**4510**
Meals Served:	**4687**
Home Delivered Meals:	**25,378**
Brown Bag/Mobile Food Pantry:	**965**
Outreach and SHINE Programs: (Jan- Oct)	**870**
Transportation Services:	**1736**

The hardworking staff at the Council on Aging remains dedicated to their mission to provide excellent service to the senior population.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Langlois
Executive Director

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Belchertown Cultural Council ("BCC"), a local agency funded in part by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, manages the Local Cultural Council Grants ("LCC Grants") program for Belchertown and organizes cultural programming for our community.

LCC Grants

BCC's state allocation from Mass Cultural Council for FY23 was $12,200, a 18.4% increase over FY22. We received 44 applications totaling $44,417 and awarded 21 grants totaling $13,795, reserving $1,000 for Food Truck Fridays ($12,200 current year and $1595 rollover from prior year unused funds).
The following programs were funded:

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount
MUSIC Dance.edu	Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors!	$450
Gregory Maichack	The Rose: Find Your Voice with Pastel Painting	$525
Ezekiel Baskin	Poetry in the Barn	$750
Jay Mankita	Makerspace Build Along: Chain Reactions!	$800
Belchertown Council on Aging	Claymates	$350
Belchertown Council on Aging	A Ray of Elvis and King Kountry	$500

Belchertown Council on Aging	Sarah the Fiddler	$450
Donald Longley	Anillo	$1,000
Common Wealth Mural Collaborative, Inc.	Belchertown Skatepark Graffiti Jam	$1,000
Common Wealth Mural Collaborative, Inc.	Belchertown Skateboard Paint Party	$1,000
David Neill	Belchertown Monday Concert Series	$1,000
Carrie Ferguson	Carrie Ferguson and the Grumpytime Club Band	$500
Sheldon Ross	Windjammer Circus Band Performance	$500
Dawn Lepere	LeFever	$400
Diane Edgecomb	Interactive Summer Reading Performance for Families	$400
Davis R. Bates III	Raising Our Voices: Two Summer Reading Performances	$600
Paul Sticca	Acousticca at Belchertown Food Truck Friday events	$750
Justine Dymond	The Examined Life: A Memoir Writing Workshop	$500
BCC	Food Truck Fridays	$1000
Laura Hicks	Christmas Concert	$220
Julia Petersen	Making Space for the Fiber-Curious: Materials	$500
Quabbin Art Association, Inc	QAA Evening Education Series	$600

Local Programming
Our two main events, Food Truck Fridays and Winter Light Night saw continued growth, despite some unsavory weather. The BCC also successfully partnered with the BCA on both the Skate Park Graffiti Jam project and the installation of the metal sculpture Anillo at Lake Wallace,

Food Truck Fridays
Food Truck Fridays was a great success in 2023. We host events in June, July, and August. On average we had 8-10 food trucks attend each event. The trucks had different cuisines to offer the community. Along with the trucks, we also had local bands come out and perform to add live entertainment. Families and friends can enjoy a night out on the Belchertown common with food and a live show.

Winter Light Night
To commemorate Small Business Saturday and the start of the holiday season, Winter Light Night is a time to "light up" the town common alongside our community. The day's activities included an Artisan Fair in Old Town Hall, s'mores, luminaria-making, maple cotton candy, gingerbread contests, hot chocolate, horse-drawn wagon rides, music by DJ Scott Dubey and more! Area churches opened their doors with shareable treats and craft projects. The Belchertown Police Department was on-site collecting for their annual toy drive and the Belchertown Fire Department greeted the community with hot chocolate. We listened to live performances by the Belchertown Public School music programs and local Girl Scout Troops. Quabbin Art Association was involved with their annual "Art Take-Away Tree" during the day and their own showcased local artisan fair. It was a day full of cheer but also community collaboration!

This year with the help of new volunteer energy, we were able to offer an ornament making station to create pieces gifted to Christopher Heights after the event. This was a new initiative we look forward to continuing annually. With more helping hands, we always hope to add new opportunities to this event that support Belchertown.

All of the activities provided are offered complimentary to our community which ensures all families feel welcome and able to participate fully. Funding supporting this event is thanks to town appropriation, festival grants and sponsorship.

Development
BCC's local business partners donated approximately $4,500 in cash sponsorships, plus numerous in-kind donations. Combined with a $6,000 Cultural Sector Grant, $2,500 Festival Grant and our $3,500 Town Meeting appropriation this allowed us to fund the operations of our flagship events.

The Belchertown Cultural Council has quickly established itself as a cornerstone of community programming, and we look forward to continued growth. There are many ways we could increase our impact and we welcome input and contributions from the community. We are grateful for our volunteers, community partners, and local business partners, and everyone who participates in BCC programs throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Anderson, Chair
Molly Robinson, Secretary
Trista Hevey, Treasurer
Jennifer Whitehead

Kyle Toelken
Heidi Brunell
Melanie Donova

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

During 2023, the Town of Belchertown, created the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.
The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region, or state.
This is a seven (7) member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from the town hall, and five (5) community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences.
This Task Force is currently in the process of recruiting a full team to complete the goals assigned while simultaneously forming into a cohesive group, assigning roles and creating goals.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns for the Memorial Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Charly N. Oliva

Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

In the past year, the Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee has made significant strides in advancing the town's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Key among these efforts was the initiation of aligning the committee's goals with the Belchertown Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth Plan, a critical component of the town's Master Plan adopted in early 2023. This plan lays the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient future, emphasizing areas such as energy, waste management, and infrastructure. A notable achievement was the collaboration with the town and Select Board to establish a formal commitment to a decarbonization pathway. This pathway is pivotal in guiding Belchertown towards reduced carbon emissions and a more sustainable future. The committee's work encompassed various projects and outreach summarized below, from energy choice programs to tree planting, each contributing to the broader vision of a greener, more sustainable Belchertown.

Belchertown Community Energy Choice Municipal Aggregation Program: The municipal aggregation plan submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (Mass DPU) in December 2022 remains under review. The early stages, including a public hearing, commentary, and the submission of documentation, took place in January and February. This phase also included the reception of letters of support from State Senator Oliveira and Representative Saunders. The remainder of the year saw limited further engagement with the DPU. In early December, the Select Board and Town Administrator forwarded a letter to the DPU Commissioners and other officials, advocating for the plan's approval. Concurrently, Good Energy LLC, the consultant for this project, hosted a technical session with the DPU and other municipalities to facilitate the review of the guidelines. A compliance filing order, signifying conditional approval, was issued by the DPU at year-end. In response, Belchertown, in collaboration with Good Energy LLC, is updating and resubmitting the plan within the stipulated 30-day period.

Event Composting: Initiatives to implement large-scale composting at town events serving food began this year. Typically, organic and compostable waste is discarded with regular trash, leading to methane production in landfills. Through a partnership with Commonwealth Sustainability LLC, a company specializing in large-scale composting, composting/recycling stations were introduced at Aaron's Race, Relay for Life, and Food Truck Friday events. These trials achieved modest success. However, due to logistical and resource constraints, the Belchertown Fair could not be accommodated.

Tree Planting: Furthering the objectives of the Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth Plan, efforts to develop a process for replanting trees in areas affected by development were initiated. Collaborative discussions with various town entities, including the Department of Public Works, Planning Board, and the Accountant's office, focused on exploring feasible options and resources necessary for this initiative.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Subsequent to the Select Board's approval of the recommended electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment in December 2022, a new state regulation mandating Energy Star certification for EV charging equipment eligible for state grants was enacted. The originally selected equipment lacked this certification. This development necessitated a clarification hearing, the outcomes of which were not available until July 2023. Efforts to update cost estimations and clarify grant requirements were ongoing. The EVSE company eventually achieved Energy Star compliance and is awaiting inclusion in the State Appliance Standards Database. Upon listing, the committee will revisit the proposal with the Select Board and assist a town representative in grant application and installation scheduling. Project cost estimates and financial strategies will also be provided to the Select Board.

Education and Outreach: Articles on the new textile recycling law and sustainable living practices were published in the local paper, along with new resources added to the committee's webpage. Public inquiries were addressed, and collaboration with the library yielded "challenge questions" based on The Recycle Smart Massachusetts program. Participants in the summer reading program could earn credits by answering these questions. Future educational programs were discussed in collaboration with Grey Craig Farm, a local homesteading farm and event space designed based on permaculture principles. The committee hosted a presentation from the Massachusetts Pollinators Network to discuss biodiversity risks and opportunities, and met with the BHS Science Department to explore potential collaborations with the school and Friends of Lake Wallace program. The committee attended and hosted meetings with the building design and project team leading the Jabish Brook Middle School feasibility study to assess and advise on energy pathway options and other green building considerations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacob Robinson, Chair of the Belchertown Energy & Sustainability Committee

FAIR AND PARADE COMMITTEE

Belchertown celebrated its 164th annual fair and parade. This year's theme was "Blue Jean and Fair Dreams." Exhibitors and town organizations came up with some dreamy ideas. Amusement rides were provided by Fiesta Shows. When wet conditions were forecasted for Sunday, fairgoers made the best of Friday and Saturday.

Saturday's parade stepped off at 10am sharp. Police escort was followed by the Color Guard. Professional units as well as amateur units were present. Antique vehicles and tractors were highlighted as well as local floats. Kids' tractor pulls, poultry and rabbit shows, horse and oxen pulls, frog jumping, Kids' Night Out, and bale toss were a few events that occurred. Fairgoers had a chance to relax and enjoy music and entertainment under the Social and Kids' Tents each day. The exhibit hall was, again, outstanding! Many hours go into decorating and setting every item up in just the right spot. Great job to all!

Awards:

Gary Whitlock Best Presentation of Theme Decorated Booth

- Youth Booth Winner: Belchertown Girl Scouts
- Adult Booth Winner: Belchertown Historic Association

Giant Pumpkin Contest

- 1st Place Giant Pumpkin- Joseph Roberts with 299lbs
- 2nd Place Giant Pumpkin- Hope Guardenier with 112lbs
- Giant Watermelon- Michael Vinsh with 47lbs
- Giant Cantaloupe- Michael Vinsh with 39lbs

Parade Awards:

Judge's Award- Best Presentation of Theme: Friends of Clapp Memorial Library

Kevin Brown Founders Award-Celebrating Creativity, Agriculture or Community Spirit: Pathfinder

Floats

- 1st: Belchertown Day School 2nd: Relentless Towing 3rd: Family Tree

Bands

- High School: 1st-Belchertown High School
- Youth Band: 1st- Jabish Brook Middle School

Marching Units (Amateur)

- Girl Scouts 2nd:Footloose 3rd: Eagle Cheerleaders

Marching Units (Professional)

- 1st: Chicopee High 2nd: Shriner's Bag Pipes 3rd: Hampshire County Sheriffs Dept.

Antique Cars

- 1st: Mark & Gail Belanger 2nd: Daniel Alley 3rd: Ken Koster

Antique Tractors

- 1st: Philip Eastwood 2nd: Bob Kirley 3rd: Ed Go

Antique Trucks

- 1st: Chris Lenox 2nd: Doug Hanscom

Antique Apparatus

- 1st: Antique Fire Hose Cart 2nd: Belchertown Ladder Truck 3rd: Agawam Engine #12

Best Themed Dressed Animals
- 1st: Austin Ridge Acres 2nd: Nicks Wave of Change Horses

Animals
- 1st: Oliver the Comfort Dog 2nd: St. Francis of Assisi K of C Dog

Exhibit Hall Awards:

Exhibit Hall Grand Champion: Kim Phaneuf

Andy Michaud Apple Pie Contest
- Adult: Lunamarie Bergeron

Helen Papp Award: Laurie White
Preston Atwood Award: Donna Butler
Glen Butler Award: Donna Butler
E.C. Howard and Son Award: John Alves
Bob Wilson Award: Linda Weston
Hubert and Jennie Greene Award: Kim Mongeau
Les Campbell Award: Michael Brozek

Fair Cake:
- Youth: Jackson Quinn Adult: Shawn Lindholm

Scarecrow
- Youth: Scout Taricano Adult: Shawn Lindholm

Elsie Waskiewicz Award: Susan Waite
Judy Bettencourt Award: Adriana Henderson

People's Choice:
- Youth: Izabella Rachlin Adult: Jacques Benoit

Kevin "KB" Brown Award: Becky Quinn
Fair Logo: Hope Guardenier

Oxen Pulls

Overall Best Teamster Award: Hunter Lucena

2400 and Under
- 1st: Kathy Haskell with Bud and Duke-7000lb-71"
- 2nd: John Kicza with John and Cash
- 3rd: Rob Bertolic with Tank and Skeet

2800 and Under
- 1st: Kenny Moulton with Rocky and Rusty-7000lbs-6'
- 2nd: Kenny Moulton with Buzz and Harold
- 3rd: Kolby Haskell with Buck and Cote

3200 and Under
- 1st: Rob Bertholic with Moose & Pete - 9,000lbs
- 2nd: Ken Moutlon with Chuck and Junior

Free for All Class – Over 3200
- 1st: Kathy Haskell- 9,000lbs
- 2nd: J.M. Hall

Horse Pulls

3300 and Under
- 1st: Roger Lockerby with Tommy and Shorty- 12000lbs
- 2nd:Ferris and Malloy with Charlie and Terry
- 3rBauman and Hubbard with King and Rex

3300 and Over

- 1st: Alan Bossieou with Snickers & Mat -11,000lbs

Best Driver in Class: Ferris and Malloy

Frog Jumping Contest

Youth:

- 1st: Jonson Martin- 82"
- 2nd:David Kry- 81"
- 3rd: Madisyn Martins- 72.5"

Adult:

- 1st: Gabriella Martinez- 88.5"
- 2nd: Melissa Martins- 80"
- 3rd: Erin Szczepanek- 76.5"

Poultry Show

Youth:

- Best in Show: Gabriel Davis
- Best Standard: Olive Garro
- Reserve Standard: Bryce Lee
- Best Waterfowl: Madison Davis
- Best Turkey: Lunamarie Lee
- Best Bantam: Gabriel Davis
- Reserve Bantam: Claire Austin

Adult:

- Best in Show: Sandra Brougham
- Best Standard: Sandra Brougham
- Reserve Bantam: Sandra Brougham
- Best Waterfowl: Michelle Lee

Pre-Cloverbud Showmanship

- Cloverbud Showmanship: 1st: Claire Austin
- Novice: 1st: James Kincla
- Junior: 1st: James Cote
- Senior: 1st: Lana Krol

Cock Crowing Contest: Wesson Backus

Rabbit Show

Best in Show: Connor Lee

Reserve Best in Show: Kylie Liptak

Best Showman: Kylie Liptak

Best Pet: Adelyn Liptak

Junior Showmanship

- 1st: Jess Korzenlowski
- 2nd: Kylie Liptak
- 3rd: Jamison Backus
- 4th: Everett Backus and Loralie Backus
- 5th: Wesson Backus

Senior Showmanship: 1st: Thomas Sclera

Cloverbud Showmanship: 1st: Paige Holmes

The Committee would like to thank the Select Board, Police and Fire Departments, EMS, Department of Public Works, Belchertown Water Department, and the Town Hall and its Administration for all of their help.

Many hours are spent planning the parade and fair. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors; their help is never forgotten. Without the efforts of the Fair Committee and all of the people who donate their time, this event would not happen.

We are all looking forward to next year's fair and the theme "Barn in the USA."

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Nute, Chairman Belchertown Fair and Parade

FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Belchertown Fire - Rescue Department is a combination of the Town's dedicated firefighting and emergency medical services personnel. Our commitment towards life safety and property protection is our primary goal. These Department services are fulfilled through the efforts of twenty-four full-time staff, 1 Fire Chief and 20 Call Force Firefighters. We are constantly striving to improve our service levels, upgrade our equipment and ensure the highest standards of training within the Department. We would like to thank the Belchertown community as we strive to build upon and improve the services that we provide to our residents.

The Belchertown Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to once again express our condolences to the Shattuck family for Firefighter William "Will" Shattuck , Jr.'s passing and further recognize the over 50 years of dedicated service given to the Belchertown Fire Fighter's Association and our residents by our valued friend and co-worker, William Ira Shattuck, Jr.

Consistently throughout the year, our Department performs on- going and continuous Emergency Management Plan Evaluations and Trainings with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association (M.E.M.A.). Our focus with this Agency is to be confident that our resources are current, available and that all personnel have been adequately trained on equipment and emergency plans. Every September, the Department joins M.E.M.A. during the Annual Town Fair to enforce a safety plan for the fair for its duration. This is a valuable opportunity to work closely with our partner, M.E.M.A., to reinforce and improve safety standards for our community during this well attended annual event. This year, our Department collaborated with area Emergency Services partners with a successful open house during Fire Prevention Week. The open house allowed citizens to interact with Firefighters in question and answer sessions, participate in interactive truck tours and participate in hands on fire extinguisher demonstrations. Fire prevention information was plentiful and it was an overall favorable turnout. Our partners in M.E.M.A. , Belchertown Police Department, Wing Hospital and Animal Control added tremendous value in their individual participation in the event.

Belchertown Fire Department, in conjunction with our Belchertown Police Department, partnered to conduct a twelve-session course known as the Public Safety Citizens Academy. The Academy's purpose is to educate community members in the essential jobs and functions of First Responders.

The Department will have a new tanker, ladder truck and ambulance in service in the very near future and we look forward to these added vehicle improvements.

Several of our Firefighters participated in a 5-day Fire Educator Academy course, known as P.F.A.L.S.E., which serves to broaden expertise and education skills for Firefighters as they learn to take on the role of Fire Safety Educator. This expanded Fire Safety education role is integral in our abilities to be successful in the S.A.F.E. classes presented to our youth in the schools and within our senior citizen community.

The Department continues to apply for and has received F.E.M.A. AFG grants (Assistance to Firefighter Grants) for the Plymovent Exhaust Systems to replace an existing exhaust system that is a noisy, antiquated system from 1997 when the station was constructed. New system installation will reduce noise, exhaust and decrease carcinogens in the station and thereby decreasing cancer risk. Grant funding will be utilized also for wildland gear, which serves to replace gear that has been in use for more than 25 years and is well beyond NFPA regulatory standards for usage. Grant funding will serve to provide Wildland Firefighter Urban interface classes, which serve to expand and improve training in extinguishing and controlling wildland fires. The course is local and the grant allows for course payment for personnel to attend. Additionally, grant funding will be used towards a Peer Fitness Training Program. The program will allow 1 member of each group to be professionally trained as a Personal Trainer to improve the diet and fitness of each individual group. The funds pay for supplies, the cost of the virtual course and any overtime monies incurred to attend the grant-funded course.

Total Record Volume By Incident Type for 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
(10) Fire, other	1										1		2
(11) Structure Fire	2	5	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	3	24
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire			1	1					2	1	1	2	8
(14) Natural vegetation fire				7	2								9
(15) Outside rubbish fire									1				1
(16) Special outside fire						1							1
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)												1	1
(22) Overpressure rupture from air or gas (no fire)							1						1
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition				1									1
(30) Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS), other	1		1	8	6	2	1		1	4			24
(31) Medical assist				1		1	1		1	1	1		6
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	164	146	147	167	157	175	152	189	161	167	142	169	1,936
(34) Search for lost person								1					1
(38) Rescue or EMS standby	1		1			2					1	1	6
(40) Flammable gas or liquid condition, other						1			1	1			3
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	2	2		1		1	4	3				1	14
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	3	3	3			2	1	1	2	2		1	18
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem		3	1	3		3	1	3	3	2	3	1	23
(46) Accident, potential accident					1								1
(48) Attempted burning, illegal action							1						1
(50) Service call, other	1												1
(51) Person in distress					1		1						2
(52) Water problem	2	5			1		1	1	2				12
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1		1		2	3	1		2	1	1	12
(55) Public service assistance	1	1		4	2	1	2	1	2	2	2		18
(56) Unauthorized burning	3		1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1		1	16
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up				1			1	1					3
(60) Good intent call, other	3			2	1		1	1			1		9
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	4	7	7	3	4	5	2	3	10	7	5	6	63
(63) Controlled burning	2		1	4				1				1	9
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	1			1	1		2	1	2	1	2	1	12
(67) HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat												1	1
(70) False alarm and false call, other		1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1			1	12
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm									1				1
(73) System or detector malfunction	6	3	7	9	7	5	9	16	15	7	4	6	94
(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	8	4	6	9	6	3	8	8	13	13	10	5	93
(91) Citizen complaint				1						1			2
UNK		1				2	1						4
Total	**205**	**182**	**178**	**229**	**192**	**212**	**196**	**237**	**222**	**213**	**177**	**202**	**2,445**

Types of Fire and EMS Incidents Responded to by the Department:

Wildland fires, CO alarms, Hazardous spills , faulty appliances, sounding alarms , life safety inspections, investigations, mutual aid responses and ambulance responses accounted for our Department's total number of 2445 combined EMS and Fire incident responses. EMS calls accounted for 1936 calls out of the 2445 incident calls (81%). Fire incident calls accounted for 509 calls out of the 2445 incident calls (19%). Our Mutual Aid call volume required Mutual Aid service for 183 calls in to the Town of Belchertown from our Mutual Aid partners. In reciprocity, our Department services our neighboring communities with Mutual Aid as needed. There were an additional 264 calls that required station coverage in the Department; station coverage is required as it represents personnel in the station to answer any additional incoming calls when staffing drops below the required numbers.

Increases in EMS and Fire –related incident calls continue to rise annually. We continue to fortify the Department with our 6 F.E. M.A. grant funded Firefighter personnel, which provides the Department with 6 Full Time Firefighting personnel under a 3 year grant program. This grant-staffing program has sought to provide greater assurance of necessary staffing to support increased community EMS and Fire –related services.

We continue to implement improved inspection –related processes to ensure adherence to all Departmental regulations.

Inspections and Permits for 2023:

Open Burning Permits	**503**
Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Inspections	**174**
Life Safety Inspections	**25**
Oil Burner / Oil Tank Inspections	**50**
Propane Tank Inspections	**74**
Underground Tank Removal Inspections	**5**

Respectfully Submitted,
Fire Chief John S. Ingram

BOARD OF HEALTH AND QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT

Background:

The Belchertown Board of Health staffs one stipend Animal Inspector; Thomas Flebotte and through the Quabbin Health District is able to provide one full time Director of Public Health, Andrea Crete, one part time Senior Clerk, Mary-Jo Grenier who staffs the Belchertown Board of Health office Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9AM – 2PM; a full time Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger and full time Health Inspector John Prenosil who replaced Sai Palani who resigned in April of 2023. John was hired on July 17, 2023.

The Board of Health meets the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30PM in the Select Boards Meeting Room located in the Town Hall on 2 Jabish Street.

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. The district was established in 1980 by a Town meeting vote and was formed under the Section 27A of Chapter 111 of the MGL. It is a joint effort by the three communities' local boards of health to provide their towns with the public health professionals and services needed to create healthy communities. The District provides public health services for the roughly 26,267 residents within these communities' 120 square mile radius. The district provides each town with the shared personnel, equipment, and other resources to carry out the required public health duties.

The Quabbin Health District provides services to Belchertown including but not limited to communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, and State mandated public health inspections and complaint management. You can visit the Quabbin Health District website for more information on services at http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com and for more information on services provided to Belchertown.

The report below details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the Town of Belchertown for the 2023 calendar year. Please contact the Board of Health by phone at 413-323-0406 or email mgrenier@belchertown.org with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns in Belchertown.

The following is a list of the various permits and licenses issued by the Board of Health office in 2023:

Private Drinking Well Permits:	28 (26 New Construction, 2 Replacements)
Septic Permits:	67 (24 New Construction, 43 Repairs
Perc Test Applications:	55 (24 New Construction, 31 Repairs)

Bakery:	2	Public Pool Permit:	2
Body Artist Establishment	1	Residential Kitchen Permits:	4
Body Artist	1	Retail Food Permits:	11
Food Establishment Permits:	30	Septic Hauler's Permits:	14
Frozen Dessert License:	2	Septic Installer's Permits:	23
Funeral Director License:	1	Tanning Unit Permits:	2
Limited Type II Food Permits:	6	Temporary Food Permits:	38
Milk & Cream Licenses:	33	Tobacco Retail Permits:	10
Mobile Food Permits:	11	Solid Waste Hauler	4
Mobile Home License:	1	Food/Retail Plan Review	3

ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

The following table lists inspectional services provided in 2023

Please note Inspection numbers may include re inspections, and pre-operational inspections.

PercTest / Deepholes and Soil Evaluations	**55** **24 new** **31 repairs**
Septic Application Review (New Construction)	**24**
Septic Application Review (Repair)	**43**
Septic Installation Inspections	**57**
Well Application Review	**28**
Housing Inspections	**6**
Lead Paint Inspections	**0**
Condemnations (#of units)	**0**
Voucher Housing Inspections	**0**
Housing Court Appearances	**0**
Food Service Inspections	**89**

New or Remodeled Food Plan review	**3**
Mobile Food Trucks & Temporary Food Vendor Inspections	**11 Mobile Food** **38 Temp Event**
Emergency Beaver trapping permit inspections	**0**
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	**2**
Tanning Establishment Inspections	**1**
Children Recreational Camp Inspections and Licensing	**0**
Tattoo/ Body Art Establishment Inspections	**2**
Public Pool and Sauna Inspections **Public Beach Inspections**	**5** **1**

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. Massachusetts law requires that owners of cats and dogs vaccinate their pets for rabies.

A municipal Animal Inspector is nominated under M.G.L. c. 129 by the Board of Health and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health. Animal Inspector duties include investigating into and issuing rabies quarantine orders; investigation of animal complaints; and conducting yearly barn inspections. For additional information on rabies quarantines please visit: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/rabies-control-program/

Rabies Quarantines for 2023:
10 Day Quarantines for biting dogs/cats: 11
Rabies Quarantines for Wounds of Unknown Origin: 10
Rabies Testing: 3- Two bats and one cat were tested at the State Laboratory for rabies. All tested negative
Barn Inspections: 70

Public Health Nursing Report:

Below are the total number and type of MAVEN cases (including confirmed (C), probable (P), and suspect (S)) from 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023. Submitted by Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District.

Disease Name	Confirmed (C)	Probable (P)	Suspect (S)
Babesiosis	4	2	4
Borrelia Miyamotoi	1	0	1
Calicivirus/Norovirus	2	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	5	3	0
Ehrlichiosis	1	0	0

Giardiasis	0	2	0
Hepatitis B	1	2	0
Hepatitis C	2	1	0
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	3	1	5
Influenza	29	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	27	49
Salmonellosis	2	0	0
Shiga toxin producing organism	0	1	0
Varicella	0	0	2
Vibrio species	1	0	0

Public Health Nurse Activities – Belchertown – 2023

Nurse Wellness Clinics

- Christopher Heights, Belchertown Senior Center, Pine Valley Plantation

Community Organizations and Committees worked with

- Belchertown Triad, Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group, Belchertown Healthy and Safer Schools Committee, Baystate Health Community Benefits Advisory Council, Quabog Valley Food Policy Council, Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance

Tuberculosis testing

- Belchertown EMS Personnel

Educational Presentations:

- Safe Storage and Disposal of Medications, Safe Aging at Home, Ticks and Mosquitos, Blood Pressure, Emergency Preparedness, Nutrition Basics, Dementia Friends Information Session

Trainings:

- Opioids and Opioid Rescue Trainings at Belchertown Town Hall and Belchertown Public Library

Tabling Events:

- Umbrella of Wellness Fair, National Night Out, Food Truck Fridays, Belchertown Senior Center Fair

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Crete, Director of Public Health, Quabbin Health District

HISTORIC DISCTRIC BY-LAW COMMISSION

At the Annual Town Meeting in May 1990, The Belchertown Center Historic District was established under Massachusetts General Law, chapter 40C, entitled "The Historic Districts Act." Under Chapter 40C of the MGL, cities and towns may establish Local Historic Districts to preserve and protect buildings and places of historic or architectural significance.

The Local Historic district provides for the review of proposed demolition, new construction or significant alterations within the boundaries of the district, in order to ensure that the proposed work is compatible and not disruptive to the visual character of the district. It does not restrict the use of buildings or land beyond that established by local zoning by-laws. Presently, there are over 200 Local Historic Districts in the Commonwealth. Although there are many significant historic properties within the town, the Historic District Bylaw Commission is responsible for the protection of those structures that are within the center historic district.

During the past year there were several applications filed for proposed work within the Historic District.
There were no "Certificate of Non-Applicability" issued in 2023.
There were no "Certificates of Appropriateness" issued in 2023.
There was no "Certificate of Hardship" issued in 2023.

Other business conducted by the HDBLC in 2023:

-An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the reuse of the existing commercial structure located at 55 Main Street was received from Berkshire Design Group. Because the application proposes no exterior alterations or modifications to the existing building, the application to this Commission was not necessary.
-A letter of support for the Hope United Methodist Church proposed roof reconstruction/repair to the Bridgeman Block located at 29 Main Street was written.

Since the first Historic District was established on Nantucket in 1955, Historic District Commissions have greatly influenced the preservation of irreplaceable resources throughout the State. We hope that this gives you renewed pride in our historic district, appreciation of the beauty of our town center and the need to preserve it for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Smith, Chair
Jonathan Spiegel
Kristy Reese
Craig Schumacher
Thomas Stockton
Susan Mahler
Sharon Burdick

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1. Members

Alexander Loss, Chair
Angela Bergeron-Alexander, Clerk
Patrick Bierly, Deputy Chair
Jill Bierly, Deputy Clerk
Robert Lewis
Susan L. Tyler
Gerard Miller

2. Work with CPC

Of thirteen petitions to the Community Preservation Committee, seven dealt with historic elements. The Historical Commission scrutinized each application, and voted to support all thirteen.

3. Continue to work with Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We have continued to work with the State commission, often asking them for advice and clarification on several issues. We also continue to work on becoming a "certified small town government", which would give us access to federal funding on certain projects.

4. Closer collaboration with various town committees and associations.

We have endeavored to work closer with the various committees and associations in this town. We have tried to include the Select Board, Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown Historical Association (AKA Stone House Museum), and other town entities, as well as private individuals in our endeavors.

5. Obtain and preserve various historical artifacts.

6. Organize and catalog historic records.

For the past two hundred years, various documents have been saved in various places. There are documents in the Town Hall, The Finnerty House, the Stone House, the Clapp Memorial Library, some archives at UMASS, and some collections in private hands. It would be a monumental task to try to organize and catalog as many of these records as possible. This is a long-term project that would take years to accomplish.

7. Add two more auxiliary members.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is a newly created department that began in June 2022. The department manages all Town recruitments and hiring; provides benefits administration for all employees and retirees; ensures compliance with state and federal laws, Town personnel By-Law and collective bargaining agreements; provides labor relations; oversees employee leave management; and employee engagement. Human Resources also coordinates various staff trainings and updates policies when applicable. The Human Resources webpage is a central location for sharing the Town's job postings, providing information on benefits and collective bargaining agreements. A Town LinkedIn account is active and lists job postings to its growing network. In 2023, the Town has recruited and filled 18 FT/PT benefited Town positions.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne L. Misiaszek, SHRM-SCP
Director of Human Resources

INSPECTION SERVICES

The Inspection Services Department issued twenty-three (23) new construction-building permits for single-family residences. This comprised twenty-three (23) single-family homes and zero (0) condos.

The total number of permits for the year totaled 1,778 (12/28/23).

Paul Adzima continues to serve as the Building Inspector as well as the ADA Liaison, Weights and Measures Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Justin Larivee serves as Assistant Building Inspector.

David Fredenburgh continues to serve as primary Plumbing and Gas Inspector with Charles Lydon serving as Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

Mitch Staszko serves as primary Electrical Inspector and David Sedelow and Richard Rosazza are serving as Assistant Electrical Inspectors.

LAKES COMMITTEE

The Belchertown Lakes Committee is responsible for the protection of public health, the environment and the general welfare of the lakes within the Town. For the year 2023, the Committee has met 11 times. The Committee has been working with Tri-Lakes Association, Town Departments and residents to meet recreational, habitat, aesthetic, water quality and other agreed-upon goals for the Town's waterbodies. Belchertown can be proud of our accomplishments regarding lake stewardship efforts for all lakes over the last 10 to 20 years. Data for the Tri-Lakes area has consistently shown a continued increase in water quality and a decline in nutrient over-loading and nuisance vegetation!

During the season of 2023, the Belchertown Lake Committee has been awarded two ARPA grants from the Town. This funding was awarded in May to hire a consultant to conduct a water quality analysis for all three lakes. This study will begin in May 2024 and be an intensive six-month study to evaluate limnological characteristics for each lake. This information will be utilized to develop a 5-year management plan. to make recommendations for all three lakes. Management must be based on sound scientific data. This monitoring initiative, added to the existing suite of management activities, are necessary to track environmental stressors that may threaten the Tri-Lakes system.

In addition, the Committee was awarded $15,000 from Belchertown ARPA funds to conduct hydro- raking activities at the outlet of Lake Metacomet. The Committee is waiting for additional estimates for this work since previous estimates have way exceeded our budget. Some of this work may have to be modified. The Lake Committee has also been involved in numerous beaver management activities and other concerns within the lake's ecosystems.

Belchertown initiated a Stormwater Bylaw throughout the Town, and this has helped to reduce and regulate roadway runoff into the Tri-lakes area. This area is a very desirable location for residential development, seasonal homes are being developed into year-round residences. This development places increase demands on limited resources within these Lakes. It is imperative that residential development is conducted in strict compliance with Town and State regulations.

The Tri-Lakes are ecologically unique assets to the local and larger populations of Belchertown and adjacent communities. There are recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values inherent to these resources. Conservation through prudent management planning is the most effective way to ensure that these lakes are available to residents for many years to come!

The Lake Committee is anxious to begin new projects for the year 2024 and feels confident that the environment is favorable within the local community, to protect these valuable resource areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Smith, Chair
LeeAnne Connolly, Vice-Chair
John Soja
Diane Plante
Maureen Desabra

MCPHERSON GARDEN COMMITTEE

The McPherson Sensory Garden Committee and volunteers at the garden continued in 2023 to reclaim, renovate, and plant the Garden grounds. Brush was cleared around the outside of the stone wall; perennials and annuals were planted inside. Some of the planting was done by Brownie Scouts who had volunteered to join the work. A group of flower beds were created in one corner to form a small garden made of geometric shapes familiar to children. A grant from Community Preservation Funds made possible the building of accessible pathways throughout the Garden and an accessible parking area adjacent to the Garden. Donations have funded stone benches to be installed in the spring of 2024.

The Committee's plans for 2024 include continuing to plant the garden, to learn about its history and to share that history. Community members are asked to bring forward any information they may have about the Garden in the nearly one hundred years since its original planting. Volunteers are always welcome to join in Garden work, as well as to visit and enjoy the Garden as it develops.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Marean (clerk)
Patricia Barry (chair)
John Berryhill
Louise Butler
Eileen Klockars

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

During 2023, the Memorial Committee worked through the Veterans' Agent Office to provide needed DD 214s ensuring military honors were provided at the veterans' funerals. Also, DD 214s were processed or evaluated for names to be included on the various war memorials in Town. Two additional names were added by the VFW with the help of the Memorial Committee.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns for the Memorial Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Charly N. Oliva

Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

PARKS, BEACH AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

We continue in our efforts to offer our community a range of recreational opportunities to the citizens of Belchertown. We continue to offer our movie nights, drive-by holiday lighting contest and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Pickleball continues to grow in popularity, our outdoor pickleball courts located behind Jabish Brook Middle School, are constantly utilized and now offer new courts at CHCS. Through the invaluable help of volunteers, coaches, program instructors and the dedication of our staff, many of our programs have returned and we have been able to provide basketball, baseball, softball, field hockey, soccer, disc golf, pickleball, twirling, fitness, yoga, tai chi, art, music, cupcake and jujitsu, summer days & flag football to name a few. Enjoyment and safety of the participants in recreational programs will always be our number one goal.
Our Town Beach is open to the public. We continue to improve the beach landscape.

We offer Stingray's Swim Team, swim lessons, exercise classes, along with private rentals and public lap swim. Pool party rentals continue to be popular throughout the year. We look forward to offering additional programs in the near future.

The Belchertown Recreation Center along with the Old Town Hall are utilized for various programming and public rental. The Center is a popular place to rent for children's birthday parties, events or meetings, while the Old Town Hall can be rented and has become extremely popular with pickleball as well as children's parties.

As always we greatly appreciate the tremendous amount of time that our coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers unselfishly give to the youth of this community. We acknowledge the assistance we receive from the Dept. of Public Works, Town Hall offices and the Belchertown School Department, whose commitment to the residents of the town make it possible for this department to be able to offer a variety of programming.

To learn more about what we offer and to register for programs check out our online system at www.belchertownrec.com.

PLANNING BOARD

There was a wide range of activity in the Planning Department in 2023. Zoning, subdivisions, grants, housing, climate resilience, economic development, and cultural activities are some of the areas that had our attention.

Development Activity

Subdivision Approval Not Required (ANR): Any time someone is to change a property line, even if the same person owns the two adjoining lots, the plan must be endorsed by the planning board and then recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds. If the change does not create a new building lot, or if it does create a building lot but each new lot has the required frontage on an existing public street, subdivision approval is not required. The planning board must simply endorse the plan indicating that it does not create a subdivision.

Twenty-one new building lots were created along existing town roads through ANR plans. Numerous other ANR plans submitted simply moved property lines without creating new building lots. The new building lots were created as listed:

STREET	# New Lots
Munsell Street	5
North Liberty Street	5
Aldrich Street	2
Barrett Street	2
Cold Spring Road	2

Kimball Street	2
Daniel Shays Highway	1
North Street	1
Sabin Street	1
Total Lots	21

The Planning Board monitored nine subdivisions under construction during 2023. Five subdivisions were completed – Hickory Hill, Trillium Way, Old Sawmill Road, Concord Way, and High Bluff. Monitoring includes inspections, processing performance guarantee changes, meeting with developers to discuss how to assist them in completing their work, and communicating with residents of the subdivisions.

The planning board is also actively seeking to close out existing subdivisions that have lingered. The board works with developers to create a work plan and seeks to help the developers fulfill their obligations to complete the projects.

Other Development Reviews:

The Planning Board approved three site plans. The board also granted five special permits for accessory apartments. The board granted one special permit for a motor vehicle dealership, and extended special permits for earth removal and a commercial solar photo-voltaic installation, One special permit application was denied for lack of information.

Planning Projects and Recommendations

The planning board makes recommendations to town meeting on proposed revisions to the zoning bylaw. Sometimes the planning board proposes a change, in other cases, other parties request a change to the zoning bylaw or map. Any change in zoning requires an application to the Select Board, and for the planning board to hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to town meeting. The planning board does not sponsor nor support every proposed change to the zoning bylaw or map.

Several zoning changes were made by town meeting in May. The Planning Department recommended placing all of the former State School campus into the Business Neighborhood Center zone to be consistent with the Carriage Grove project. For the Lampson Brook Farm, a new zone and description were added; there is now the Agricultural Value-Added zone at the former dairy complex on Jackson Street. Two other zone changes were because of applications from property owners, one on North Main Street, and one on Pelham Road.

The Community Plan, which is the town's master plan, is being revised gradually by finding grants for the work. This past year the planning board completed and adopted a Housing Master Plan within the Community Plan. The Housing Plan incorporated our new Housing Production Plan, which is a separate plan required by the state to demonstrate our commitment to encourage a range of housing types to increase broader residential opportunities. The board also added a new component, the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Plan. This new component is consistent with the board's emphasis on anticipating trends and needs and developing plans and policies to address them.

Working with the Select Board and Town Administrator, we hired a Creative Economy Coordinator as a consultant using ARPA funds. Maude Haak-Frendscho began in early summer on a contract that goes into mid-2024. Ms. Haak-Frendscho has been reaching out to businesses, non-profit organizations, and cultural groups to advance this segment of our economy. She is also applying for a state-designated cultural district that would tie together the town common and the Carriage Grove/State Street area.

With the first component of the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail completed, we applied for funds to build the second phase around Foley Field and toward the Lampson Brook Farm, and then to connect with Carriage Grove. We received a $470,000 grant from the Small and Rural Communities program. This granted was bolstered by an earmark of $55,550 in the state's economic development bond bill at the end of last year's session courtesy of Senator Oliveira. This trail is a fully-accessible trail with sensory elements.

Other Work of the Planning Department

The town planner has served on several state-wide advisory boards for ad hoc projects. One project was the state's land use plan, the Resilient Land Initiative. This was done in 2020, and finally released at the end of the Baker administration last year. A second project was done by MassAudubon and the Harvard Forest to study commercial solar siting. The recommendation report was complete in late summer. Presently, the town planner is on a committee advising The Nature Conservancy seeking comments for their project to identify a *Clean and Equitable Electricity System for New England*. The town planner also advised the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on drafting a model zoning bylaw for Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Continuous activities of the planning office and planning board include reviewing and processing plans, monitoring projects, voting on development and land division applications, and making recommendations to the zoning board of appeals and other boards. The planning board reviews requests for changes to zones and the zoning by-law and makes zoning recommendations to town meeting. The planning board reviews common drive developments, subdivisions, "Approval Not Required" plans, non-residential site plans, earth removal plans, and wireless communication facility plans. The planning board also made recommendations to the select board on the town's right of first refusal to purchase land held under Chapter 61 restrictions. The board also advises and assists other town offices, developers, property owners, and the public.

The department provided assistance and advice to the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, to the Lampson Brook Farm management board, and to MassDevelopment on Carriage Grove redevelopment.

The town planner manages the planning office and assists the planning board in development review, procedural interpretation, and research. The town planner also coordinates planning and reviews with other town offices, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, developers, residents, and businesses. The town planner maintains contacts with the UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning department, the Conway School of Landscape Design, state agencies, our legislators, professional planning organizations, and planning colleagues. The planning board continued involvement with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce to support small business development and is the town's representative on the Quaboag Region Coordinating Council. The town planner represents Belchertown on the chamber's economic development committee. The town planner also is on the board of the Valley Development Council, the executive committee of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and the Pioneer Valley Regional Housing Committee, and on several advisory committees.

Board Membership

The planning board membership in 2023 was as follows:

Justin Rosienski, Clerk, (term expires: 2024);
Michael Hofler, Vice Chair, Community Preservation Committee liaison (term expires: 2025);
Daniel Beaudette, Chair (term expires: 2026);
Elizabeth Pols, Commissioner to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (term expires: 2027)
Bjorn Markeson, single signature authority, (term expires: 2028)
Wendy Goulet, Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits (Appointed annually – term expired).
Leonard Bilodeau, Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits (Appointed annually to June 30).
Mark Plante, Associate Member (Appointed annually).

We thank Jim Natle for his 26-year career with the planning board. He was an associate member, then the alternate voting member, and from 1999 to 2023 a full member, with several years as chair. We are grateful for his dedication and knowledge.

Staff

Jacqueline Fredenburgh is the Planning Board assistant.
Douglas Albertson is the Town Planner and Alternate Commissioner to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Planning Board,
Douglas Albertson
Town Planner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the members of the Belchertown Police Department, I am honored to present the 2023 Annual Town Report.

The dedicated and professional members of the Belchertown Police Department, both sworn and civilian, tirelessly strive to ensure the safety of our town by delivering top-notch service around the clock. Our team consists of 23 full-time sworn officers and 9 civilian dispatchers, most of whom are either residents or natives of Belchertown. We are an accredited police department, having attained the prestigious award in June 2020 and again in June 2023 from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.

Personnel additions this year include; Dispatchers Josh Orrell and Cassie Warren, Officers Garrett Fortin, Nicholas Jimenez, and Cameron Woodward. Iain Knight was promoted to Senior Dispatcher, Dispatcher Samuel Prefontaine resigned and Dispatcher Michael Neiford transitioned from full-time to part-time status.

Our department places a strong emphasis on community policing and programming. We are proud to have welcomed Oliver the Comfort Dog into our ranks in 2023. Our commitment to community engagement is evident through various outreach initiatives and activities, including Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, Military Tribute Banners, Citizen Police Academy, Summer Youth Academy, RAD (Self Defense), Child Safety Seat Inspections, Annual Toy Drive, Special Olympics, Senior Center/TRIAD, K-9 Events, and Drug Take Back Day.

In 2023, officers responded to 18,567 calls for service, resulting in 234 people arrested or summoned to court on criminal offenses, and 840 incident reports completed. There were 248 motor vehicle crashes investigated and 1788 motor vehicle citations issued.

The following lists a selected number of incidents investigated and reports completed, and/or criminal charges brought forward:

Abuse Prevention Order Violation	11	Animal Complaints	139
Assault/Assault & Battery	69	Aggravated Assault	29
Assist Fire/EMS	16	Burglary/ Breaking & Entering	15
Child Pornography	3	Counterfeiting/Forgery	5
Destruction of Property	24	Disorderly Conduct	3
Disturbance	61	Drug Offenses	4
Domestic Assault & Battery	45	DUI Drugs/Alcohol	27
Gun Law Violations	25	Harassment/ Threats	8
Identity Theft/Impersonation	23	Intimidation	28
Juvenile Issues	26	K-9 Unit	28
Larceny of Property	89	Liquor Law Violations	8
Medical/Mental	106	Missing Persons	6
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	Negligent Vehicle Operation	18
Protective Custody	8	Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	3	Trespassing	5
Sudden Death	20	Warrant Arrests	20

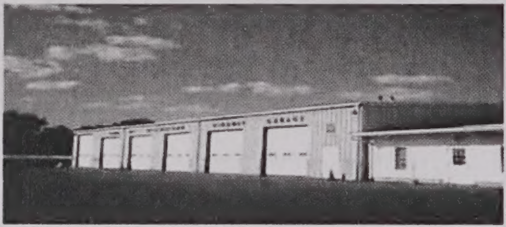
I would like to express my appreciation to the members of our community for their ongoing support of our police department. I would like to thank Town Administrator Steven Williams and the Belchertown Select Board for their continuing support. A heartfelt thank you goes to the civilian and sworn members of the Belchertown Police Department for their dedicated service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Pacunas

Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



The Department of Public Works constantly acclimates and adjusts its operations despite consistent limited resources and budgetary constraints. The ever-changing structure of the economy and its challenges posed in year 2023 produced an inflammatory market for goods further forcing strong demand and constraint on vendor supply. Like many, we have suffered through heavy price fluctuation, instability and unavailability to receive parts necessary to conduct in-house reparations to our fleet of vehicle(s), equipment and town buildings that were heavily impacted. As a result, we have endured a tough year while still maneuvering through a wide variety of additional obstacles placed upon us, both planned and unexpected.

Winter of 2023 came in like a lamb and exited a lion. January remained subdued with non-substantial snow acumulation. However, our DPW crews constantly toggled between intermittant freezing rain and temperatures that posed a challenge keeping our glazed roads passable. On February, 3rd an arctic blast hit with up to 50mph gale force winds along with wind chills of -15 to -40 degrees that spanned two days. The lion roared on March 14, 2023 when a 'BombCyclone" impacted the entire northeast dumping over a foot of snow in some areas along with heavy rain and wind resulting in power outages and downed trees in its wake. Although MEMA did not declare this countywide destruction, a Federal Disaster our DPW crews remained on the ground tending to local clean up throughout this event, which ultimately led us into spring. Overall, this winter produced 23 storm events totalling 34.75" of snowfall as compared to last year's 29 storms/34.00" (2022). The following report will attempt to provide a glimpse of other activities we performed throughout the year.

ROADWAYS & RECONSTRUCTION-Phase I:

North Main-Main Street Corridor Improvement Project- In November 2022, the Select Board approved this project to move forward. The projects one-mile corridor re-design includes new and reconstructed sidewalks, travel lane narrowing, shoulder widening, on-street parking, bicycle and recreational accommodations, and safety improvements including signage and line striping. Engineering is in the 10% design phase and is gradually moving onward.

BUILDINGS GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE: This department was challenged by a shortage of seasonal work force this year along with the loss of one full time employee yet continued to provide maintenance to all town buildings, take care of 200+ acres of grounds/open space including recreational and school fields, conservation trails, nine cemeteries, athletic fields and town properties. This division spent most of their time performing a wide variety of routine maintenance activities including snow removal, painting, equipment repair, athletic field preparations, annual cemetery cleaning, leaf raking and the installation of seasonal/holiday decorations. In addition, due to the excessive rainfall this season mowing was conducted every week for 28 weeks straight.

They also completed an impressive list of time-consuming projects (listed below) that requires the proper training and knowledge to perform.

- Assisted Police Department with the annual hanging of Veteran Banners
- Set up bleachers, picnic tables, trash barrels and no parking signs for the Belchertown Fair.
- Thatched, aerated and over seeded all playing fields.
- Replaced the furnace at the Police Station and both furnaces at the Senior Center.
- Set up stars, snowflakes and Christmas tree for first night celebration.
- Conducted major repairs on Town Hall and Police AC units.
- Cut fields and trails: Blue Dot Trail, Piper Farm Trail, Bay Road Fields, Reed Property and Topping Farm Property.
- Picked up leaves from all town buildings, playing fields and cemeteries.
- Put up no parking signs for Tag Sale, Put-A-Thon, First Night and food truck events.
- Conducted annual maintenance of 46 Detention Basins in various town locations.
- Painted, installed mini split and moved Veteran's agent to new location at Freedom Center.
- Painted, installed mini split and moved IT/Computer Department to Recreation Building.
- Installed new doors at IT/Computer Department, Maintenance Department and Transfer Station.
- Replaced many sections of rotted pipe on Fire Department sprinkler system.
- Removed over grown garden at Senior Center.
- Renovated an office space, bathroom area and activity room in the Recreation building to accommodate the relocation of the Family Center members.

This Division also assisted with town wide annual roadside mowing and brush cutting activities. Nearly all of the roads were mowed and approximately two miles of roadside were cleared of excess brush to increase sight distance and to provide space for snow storage.

CEMETERY DIVISION- In year 2023, this division conducted 35 burials consisting of 13 earthen and 22 cremations. In addition, 17 deeds were issued and 2 lots were transferred amongst private owners. Other activities included archiving deeds, lot transfers and sales, burials, mapping, grounds maintenance, lot layouts, snow staking and pinning of cemetery burial rows and headstone repairs. The Cemetery Division archives all deceased and burial certificates for long-term preservation. Along with aiding genealogical researchers, we also process military markers sent from the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure those who died in military service are properly recognized.

EARTH DAY - Earth Day was celebrated on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The DPW purchased and provided biodegradable green trash bags to residents wishing to pick up curbside trash in honor of this annual event. This year we distributed 45 bags to 6 resident who collected trash from 6 streets. The Department wishes to thank everyone who participated in this annual event and appreciates your efforts towards keeping Belchertown clean.

GREEN COMMUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT- We are now in our fourteenth year of reporting since designation in May 2010. (FY'09). Our Annual Green Community Report was submitted on November 21, 2023 to the MassDOER. This online statistical and lengthy report provides the necessary data in order for the town to maintain its Green Community status and to further qualify for Green Community Competitive Grants.

GRANTS – ($189,059.00)

CPA (Community Preservation Act):

Historic Lighting: - (Town Hall Parking Lot & Clapp Memorial Library) Total Project Cost; $71,459.00 CPA Request; $55,415.00~ Pending. This award will provide for the installation of 14 historical period posts and lamps at the Town Hall/ Clapp Memorial Library shared parking lot.

DER Culvert Municipal Replacement Grant-$112,000 - This award is to be utilized towards field data collection, design and engineering costs to replace the culvert on Warren Wright Road.

MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program –$5,600: This award is a result of our annual participation in the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) which awards grants based on a point system to municipalities that have proven policies to maximize reuse, recycling and waste reduction efforts and adherence to a municipal Buy Recycle Policy which requires all town offices to purchase any/all office products with a recycled content of up to 30% or the maximum extent possible.

Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment- The Department has partnered with National Grid and their contractor ICF to participate in the Utility's Fleet Advisory Services Program. This no-cost program will provide data, analysis, technical support and other resources to allow for a methodical transition from an internal combustion vehicle fleet to electric vehicles (EVs).

Hazardous Waste Collection – This year's event was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 9am-12noon, at the DPW Highway Garage and was assisted by hazmat vendor Clean Harbors from Ct. There were 87 vehicles in attendance who produced 1258 lbs/gals of hazardous waste comprising of the following: 3lbs/3gals =21 vehicles, 10lbs/10gals=31 vehicles and 25lbs/25gals -35 vehicles. In addition, this reciprocal event is open to neighboring cities/towns due to our participation in the Pioneer Valley Reciprocal HHW Collections Program. The list of host communities is posted on the DPW website www.belchertown.org annually.

SAFETY - Our Safety Committee was active this past year with organizing departmental training in several topics to include Work Zone /Traffic Safety, CPR, Confined Space, Lockout/Tag out, Fall Protection, and OSHA 10. They also completed a walkthrough of the DPW buildings to ensure safe work practices and improvements were to be implemented and maintained.

NEW Vehicles Purchased
1- 2023 Chevrolet Silverado K35 Utility Truck- New
1- 2023 Ford F350 Cab w/Dump Body-New
1-2023 Ford F350 4 x 4 –New
1- Mobile Message Board

Surplused Vehicles and Equipment
1- 1998 Chevy GMT400 Blue PU Truck

1- 1998 Chevy GMT400 Red PU w/dump body/Spreader
1-2004 Ford Ranger, Gray PU
1- 2010 Ford Explorer Black Utility
1- 1991 Wolf Propane Gas Range
1-Woods Mower
1- Kohler Generator Controller
1- DR 3pt. Hitch mounted Trimmer/Mower
1-Concord Road Equipment Mfg.
1-Shark Hot Water Pressure Washer
1-Wacker Vibratory Plate Compactor
1-Eager Construction Trailer

HIGHWAY DIVISION – This year, Belchertown's remaining portion of the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) in the amount of $8741.19, was used towards the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resurfacing of various roads and sidewalks in need of repair. The spending deadline for WRAP funding was extended until July 15, 2023 (from June 30, 2023) and concludes the end of this program.

In between inclement weather, this division tackled many areas of work to include pothole repairs, street sweeping, sign installation, line painting, repairing equipment, clearing of brush and vegetation from the roadsides and cleaned 365 catch basins. During 2022-2023 snow season, our average expenditure per inch of snow removed from the roadways was $6384.61 approximately -21%, less than 2021-2022 season (FY'22/ $8093.28). The total cost for the season was $221,865.10.

This Division is responsible for the preparations of all resurfacing/reclamation/overlay projects with bituminous concrete overlay and lane markings. The following streets received this much-needed work.

Sidewalks

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
Tucker Lane	800	5
	Total: 800ft.	

2023 Roadway Reconstruction Projects

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
South Washington Street	16010	22
Metacomet Street	5140	21
South Street	4650	21
Aldrich Street	6300	19
Bridge Street	350	22
George Hannum Street	6000	20
	Total: 52,330 ft.	

Crack Sealing:

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
North Washington Street	3000	21
South Liberty Street	2640	21
North Liberty Street	3000	21
Two Ponds Road	1000	22
Maplecrest Drive	3440	22
	Total: 13,080ft.	

Totals: 12 Streets, Total Length: 66,210ft., Total Cost: $749,738.00

TRANSFER STATION – All aspects of the towns' waste disposal activities are monitored and in adherence to the annual Transfer Station Rules & Regulations. Violators consisting of non-permitted users and/or failure to use the town's orange trash bags are identified and promptly notified. The Annual Transfer Station Rules & Regulations can be located on the DPW/Town website by accessing www.belchertown.org.

Our residential number of household Transfer Station users totaled 1819 (FY'23). Permit stickers were obtained via a combination of onsite sales, town offices and regular mail options. The costs for the Transfer Station Permit Stickers remained unchanged at $125.00 annually and for senior citizens age 65+ for $105.00. Likewise, orange trash bag fees remained at $25.00 for size large (10 per bundle) whereas small bags remained at $15.00 (10 per bundle). Town (orange) bags may be purchased at a variety of in-town stores as well as the DPW, Finnerty House and the Transfer Station for resident convenience.

This year, the Transfer Station has seen a major fee change applied to mattress collection due to the newly implemented MassDEP Mattress Waste Ban which requires the collection of clean used mattresses be stored separately in order to avoid contamination. In May, this fee increased from $40.00 per unit to $100.00 per unit for their disposal.

Participation continues to vary slightly from year to year for those who desire to use our disposal/recycling program. The following quantities of solid waste and recyclables were generated during year 2023.

Recyclable	***Per Unit(s)***	***Year 2022***	***Year 2023***
Recyclables	Tons	336.9	318.7
Tires (single)	Single	917s	958s
Solid Waste (tons)	Tons	1089.36	1071.25
Electronics (tons)	Tons	10.3	7.94
Scrap Steel (tons)	Tons	78.60	95.02
Textile (tons)	Tons	5.67	6.25

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT- This past year the Wastewater Treatment Plant received and treated approximately 144.75 million gallons of wastewater; 17.5 million gallons more than in 2022 which was 127.25 million gallons.

They also acquired 11 new service connections; of which 1 was within the Tri-Lakes Sewer System and 10 were in the Central Sewer System. This brings the total number of customers served to approximately 1900 equivalent dwelling units (EDU's). The WWTP Staff were busy working on facility operations and improvements including employee training, equipment filter replacement, and process meter installations. Other projects completed were the SBR #1 diffusers replacement, interior concrete repairs and caulking, repairs to the facility retaining wall and two sludge processing valve replacements.

The Staff also worked on sewerage pumping station maintenance and repairs to include: One Bay Road pump rebuild, electrical component replacements, periodic pump inspections and wet well cleaning. Additional sewerage collection system tasks completed included sewer lining and cleaning, easement cutting, and service and structure inspections.

TREE AND VEGETATION CONTROL – As with every year, the Towns Tree Warden attends the Massachusetts Tree Warden & Foresters Association Annual Conference in order to receive recertification and accreditation to conduct work in the field. In year 2023, the department continued to aggressively address the removal of hazardous trees along our public roadways. Trees removed were predominately hardwoods consisting of Ash, Oak, and Maples although White Pines also topped the list. The focus of the department's annual tree removal budget is to actively address trees determined to pose a safety risk due to damage caused by weather, rot, or infestation of various nature.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The Department went through a significant transition this year as the long-time Director, Steve Williams, was appointed as Town Administrator in early May. After a lengthy search, I was fortunate to be hired as the new Director in September. It has been an exciting fall season for me and I cannot thank the entire staff enough, for making my time here both rewarding and valuable. The Department of Public Works is clearly a combined team of loyal and hardworking employees who all have gone above and beyond their call of duty to make 2023 a most successful year. I look forward to a safe and prosperous new year and to many years to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually, when there are available funds, to Belchertown residents in pursuit of higher education and for the purpose of providing financial aid towards the costs of tuition, books, fees, etc. Applicants may be graduates of Belchertown High School, Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School, or a home-school program.

In 2023, the committee awarded three scholarships in the amount of $1,500 each.

In addition, the Committee continued its trek towards community outreach via the use of informational flyers inserted into the town's quarterly tax billing cycles through the aid of the Belchertown Treasurer Collectors Office. These inserts provide guidance on how individuals can contribute to the fund in several ways. The Committee wishes to thank everyone for their continued and generous support.

The Belchertown Scholarship Fund accepts contributions in any denomination in c/o: the Town of Belchertown Treasurer Collectors Office or by adding any amount to your quarterly tax bill payment. Contributions can also be made by accessing the town's website at www.belchertown.org. Check donations can be placed into the drop-box located outside of the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall, back entrance.

The Scholarship Committee remains grateful for the continued support provided by everyone behind the scenes as well as the generous and continued support of our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley J. Dunham, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee

Members:

Lorraine Alves, Pathfinder Regional Rep.
Ruby Bansal, School Committee Rep.
Brian Cameron, Superintendent of Schools, Rep.

Sarah Edwards, Member
Diane Brown, Member

BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools: In 2023, the Jabish Brook Building Project experienced a highly active year, marked by close collaboration with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Skanska USA Building Inc., and Lamoureux Pagano Associates/Architects. The focus remained on meeting deadlines, fulfilling requirements, and submitting all necessary requests throughout the feasibility phase. A pivotal moment occurred on December 13, 2023, when the MSBA's Board of Directors officially approved the Town of Belchertown's Preferred Schematic for the Jabish Brook Middle School project. In the Schematic Design phase, the District and its team work in conjunction with the MSBA to craft a comprehensive schematic design that provides detailed information. This design serves as the foundation to determine the project's scope, budget, and schedule, forming the basis for evaluating the proposed project. The goal is to secure approval from the Board, obtain approval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for delivering the District's special educational program through the Proposed Project, and garner local authorization and financial support.

We began the school year by exploring The Starfish Story by Loren Eiseley. The central message of the story emphasizes that every individual holds the potential to make a significant impact, even if that effect is only recognized by one person. During this reflection, we seized the opportunity to acknowledge the considerable influence our staff has on the lives of our students. We celebrated educators who have committed 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of dedicated service to the Belchertown Public Schools. We all have a responsibility to work towards creating an inclusive atmosphere for our students, where a sense of belonging is nurtured through the cultivation of a welcoming environment for everyone.

In October of 2023, the Belchertown Public Schools and the Belchertown Police Department collaborated on an initiative known as "Handle with Care." This initiative establishes a communication system between first responders and school districts to guarantee the identification and support of children who have undergone trauma. The program aims to provide educators with enhanced opportunities to assist children in navigating the school environment after experiencing a traumatic event. Gratitude is extended to the Children's Advocacy Center Hampshire County and The Belchertown Police Department for their valuable partnership in this endeavor.

I encourage you to read each of the following school department's contributions to learn the greater story of the Belchertown Public Schools. If you have any questions please contact the Superintendent's office. As always, thank you to our families and the community for entrusting BPS with the responsibility of educating the students in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian C. Cameron, Superintendent of Schools

Finance & Operations Town Report 2023

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) school district budget was approved at the May Town Meeting in the amount of $31,134.612 which is an increase of $336,552 or 1.1% over the prior fiscal year. Nondiscretionary budget items such as a new bus contract, utilities, benefits and out of district tuition were the driving factors for the increase. The budgeting process began in the Fall of 2022 with a review of all staffing and non-payroll lines with the building principals, who gathered input from staff members and School Councils. Once an initial draft budget is created, the Superintendent, Finance Team, and other key District staff met with the Finance & Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee, the full School Committee, the Town Administrator, the Town Finance Committee, and the Selectboard to review the budget details. The goal is to build a budget that meets the needs of students and balances those needs with the town's financial capacity.

The Business Office is staffed by a contracted service in the role of Director of Finance. A team is currently in place to meet the district's needs: Mark Chapulis and Carol Sauerhoefer are the team leads. Our team is grateful to the Business Office staff: Angela DiVico, Accounts Payable; Leslie Wallace, Payroll; and Kathy Boucher, part-time payroll support and Medicaid reporting; for their hard work in ensuring that everything runs smoothly. In addition to our regular tasks, the Business Office has been supporting the work of the District in preparing for the Jabish Brook Middle School building project.

Throughout the year the Business Office closely monitors and manages the District's finances, using the MUNIS accounting system to ensure that we meet state and federal requirements and sound accounting practices. The Contracted Director of Finance Team reviews the budget regularly with the Superintendent and other key district personnel. Monthly financial reports, including payroll and accounts payable warrants, are shared with the School Committee. Combined with the FY23 annual budget, the Business Office also managed state and federal grants of $ 1,051,720 (including federal ESSER grants), School Revolving funds of $1,006,019 including Circuit Breaker reimbursements, and a School Choice revolving receipts of $908,286 which comprised a total financial operation of $34,100,637 for FY23.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Chapulis and Carol Sauerhoefer,
Contracted Director of Finance Team

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning's Report

Throughout this year, I have continued to focus on assisting administration and faculty with standards-based curriculum alignment, development, and coordination (PK-12), strengthening instructional delivery, supporting supervision and evaluation, managing student assessment, and coordinating professional development during this trying time.

In this regard, I continued to facilitate the District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) this year in an effort to align our PK-12 Professional Development efforts. We worked throughout the year to coordinate professional development activities that were focused, high quality, relevant to teachers' practice, connected to the school/district's mission and had a positive impact on student learning. We continue to develop ways to assess PD offered in the district and to try to tap into the many talented professionals that we have in our district.

The focus of our elementary curriculum and assessment work this year has been on English/Language Art (ELA). We are moving along as planned with the implementation of our new comprehensive ELA curriculum materials. In grades 6-12, a team of educators worked diligently to update Mathematics curriculum materials and moved forward with the adoption of resources for middle school math, algebra, and geometry.

Much of this year's Professional Development focused on *Developing Curriculum Guides*. We also continued our work with area consultants in order to develop educators' capacity to support their colleagues as they refine classroom practices that prioritize the purposeful integration of SEL. Other PD work touched on *Technology Integration*, developing *Trauma Centered Practices*, and *Responding to Hate & Bias in Schools.*

These four themes were also supported through building-based PD, district-offered PD opportunities, and partnerships with local colleges and collaboratives.

I value the work that I do with building principals and assistant principals on identifying the elements of high-quality instruction and assessment in their classrooms. This can be done through: joint observations of teaching, mentoring, calibration activities, participation in faculty/department/team meetings, analysis of student data, etc. Spending time in classrooms with students and teachers continues to be the highlight of my day.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Shawn Fortin, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Student Support Services

The year started with our English Language Learner (ELL) students participating for the eleventh year in the "Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State" (ACCESS) testing. This assessment was given to students identified as ELLs in Kindergarten through 12th grade to identify their English proficiency in reading, writing, thinking, and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated.

Student Support Services continues to oversee special education programs and services, English Language Learner programs, Section 504 and Homelessness. Essentially, the Student Support Services Department does exactly what the name suggests in that it provides support services for our students.

Special Education programs and services are responsible for providing educational services to students who experience academic difficulty because of a disability consisting of a developmental delay, or an intellectual, sensory, neurological, emotional, communication, physical, specific learning or health impairment, or any combination of the aforementioned. Children ages three to twenty-two, who have not received a high school diploma, are eligible for special education services. In addition to providing for the academic needs of children identified as having a disability, the program provides related services to assist students in making effective educational progress. These services consist of, but are not limited to, psychological services, counseling for school-related issues, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and mobility training, applied behavioral analysis and speech/language therapy. Students with special needs are provided educational services in a variety of settings ranging from full inclusion in the regular classroom to out-of-district placements. The school district also provides extended school year services for special education students in grades preK-12 to prevent substantial loss of previously learned skills and/or substantial difficulty in relearning skills.

The Student Support Services Department welcomed Elizabeth Rice as the new School Psychologist, Meredith Gagne, Occupational Therapist, Tim Binkert, ELL Teacher, and Sam Chevrette as Administrative Assistant.

The Student Support Services Department began the year short-staffed. Only one school psychologist position out of three was filled. These positions have remained unfilled despite multiple postings across multiple sites. The department has been able to contract with outside service providers to ensure that our students are receiving timely, comprehensive evaluations, and as such, the department has been able to complete all evaluations within the regulatory timelines.

The Student Support Services Department continues to work with building principals to increase inclusive education for all students within the district. Increasing inclusive education may be a long and challenging process, but ultimately this transition can strengthen a school community while simultaneously supporting and addressing the individual needs of each child. As such, effective models of inclusive education not only benefit students with disabilities, but also create an environment in which every student, including those who do not have disabilities, has the opportunity to flourish.

Fall 2023 began the fifth year of Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) programming at Belchertown High School, and the second year through Easter Seals and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). Pre-ETS services are available to students with disabilities between the ages of 14 and 22 who are enrolled in or receiving services through their local high school. Pre-ETS programming is designed to offer a peer-based approach to support students with five core services: Job Exploration, Work Readiness, Work-based Learning Experiences, Self-Advocacy and Mentoring and Counseling on Post-Secondary Education or Training. Students can access one or all five of these services at a pace commensurate with their abilities.

The Belchertown Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) continues to collaborate with neighboring communities in order to be able to provide a variety of workshops to our families. The first workshop for this school year is scheduled to take place in January 2024.

Finally, the Student Support Services Department continues to work hard to improve and increase communication with families and community members. I look forward to building and maintaining relationships with parents, community members and with the Parent Advisory Council to continue working collaboratively towards improving the best education for all students.

Respectfully Submitted
Rebecca Kudron
Director of Student Support Services

Director of Buildings and Grounds – Annual Report

The Buildings and Grounds department is responsible for the maintenance of five school buildings and two associated buildings, encompassing 478,000 square feet of building space and over 150 acres of land.

This year the school buildings underwent more than $200,000 in maintenance repairs and capital improvement projects, with a majority of them taking place during the summer months. Projects that were completed, in addition to ongoing maintenance of our school buildings included; new kitchen grease trap at Swift River Elementary School, asbestos flooring abatement and catch basin repairs at Cold Spring School, classroom heat pump replacements, classroom flooring replacements and kitchen equipment replacements at Chestnut Hill Community School, kitchen equipment replacement at Jabish Brook Middle School and auditorium lighting and sound board replacements at Belchertown High School.

Due to the rising costs of licensed building trades workers, this year we piloted a one year position and added one full time maintenance employee to the department to take care of our buildings HVAC filter changes and preventive maintenance work. When soliciting bids for this work, costs were projected to be around $100,000 per year. By bringing this work in house we are on track to save over $25,000 this year on HVAC filter changes alone. On top of handling this work, the new position has allowed us to increase the quantity of maintenance projects undertaken in house and complete previously deferred maintenance projects. Thus far this position is proving to be very beneficial, not only from a financial standpoint, but also from a long term capital asset maintenance outlook.

This year the Jabish Brook Middle School Building Committee was formed after the School District was accepted into the Feasibility Study phase of the MSBA's Core grant program. This program is aimed at renovating and rebuilding aging school buildings across the commonwealth. At the completion of the feasibility study, the building committee along with input from the Town Selectboard and Finance board, voted to move forward with a new Jabish Brook Middle School building, proposed to be built adjacent to the current school building. This project is now in the schematic design phase of the project as of December and will be put out to be voted on at a special town meeting and ballot vote in June of 2024.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and diligent efforts of our custodial and maintenance staff who work hard every day to uphold the high standards of safety and cleanliness for the Belchertown students and staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Lebeau, FMP, BOC
Director of Buildings and Grounds

Information Services Department Town Report

Throughout this last year we have worked towards improving technology in the district. Hardware refreshments and software upgrades have dominated the past year. These efforts will continue into the next year also.

-One of the most important systems refreshed was our Cisco wireless controllers. These control all of the 217 wireless access points in all schools and the Central Office. Both controllers (for redundancy) were replaced and should run for another 8 to 10 years. Along with the new controllers we upgraded 115 wireless access points. These improved access points can carry even more bandwidth. Increased bandwidth is needed as in classroom device use is becoming more frequent.
-A full review of security measures in the district was completed by an outside consultant. Part of the recommendation is a refresh/replacement of the old analog camera system. A new Alta Cloud system by Bosch was selected after an extensive review of the various systems available. This new camera system is cloud based and that improves access from offsite locations such as police or if the Superintendent or a Principal is off site he or she will still be able to access any camera in the event of an emergency. Installation of this system started at the end of 2023 and should be completed in the next couple of months. In addition the door lock system is being replaced and fully integrates with the camera system. In essence they are one system now and work together.

-Throughout the district we have begun the process of upgrading all the Windows 10 computers to Windows 11. This will take much of the next year to fully complete and meet the mandatory deadline expiration of Windows 10 that occurs in October of 2025.

-The I.T. Department is also involved in advising the new school building committee on recommendations for technology, layout of switch rooms and network topology in the planned new building.

-Lastly, since the I.T. Department was flooded out of Tadgell we have permanently relocated our offices to a classroom in the High School. This summer we are moving the Data Center out of Tadgell and into the Head End room of the High School. This will involve a complicated reorganization of the network structure, and flow of internet traffic across the district. This should be completed over summer break.

I would like to thank our Superintendent and Administrative Team for their continued support for the rapidly expanding technological footprint in the district. Without the proper financial and operational support these systems can become problematic. Regular investments in the systems, technology and people who support them is critical to smooth operations across the district.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Scott Karen
Director of Technology for Belchertown Public Schools

Food Service Department Director's Report:

The food service department offers breakfast and lunch to students and staff every school day. We are continuously working towards better quality foods and utilizing more local ingredients. We began a social media campaign to help boost and share what kinds of local products we are utilizing here in town called "Love of Local" We received funds in total of $16,705 from Northeast Farm to Schools to purchase local products. My goal was to spend the majority of those funds right here in town to support our local farmers. So far we have purchased beef, maple syrup, honey and veggies from Belchertown. To date we have served over 50,000 thousand breakfasts and close to 100,000 lunches to the students in our community.

We participated in the last Summer Eats meals this past summer. The town no longer qualifies for the program, which is unfortunate as it was a widely popular program and gave kids a place to have a delicious wholesome meal and socialize with peers.

We started a school-wide composting, recycling, and donation program. This has allowed us to keep track of our waste, educate students on the process of waste management, stewardship of the land, and mindfulness in choices they make. Our year's total waste diverted so far is 28,151 pounds from landfills. The donation table has allowed us the opportunity to share with our community and those in need.

We will utilize 100 % of our USDA entitlement funds as well as the DOD fresh funds. Which allows us to provide fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the USA.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the new and existing staff for providing meals and re-inventing their spaces to accommodate the amount of students we serve daily.

We look forward to continuing to offer nutritious meals to our students and staff, while making improvements where we can.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barrett Grazioso
Food Service Director

School Nursing Department Report

During the 2022-2023 school year, six full-time School Nurses were employed in the Belchertown Schools. We continue to receive money from the Comprehensive School Health Services Grant (CSHS), this grant is for 10 years and is funded by the Department of Public Health's School Health Unit. We are in the fourth year of the Grant. The CSHS Grant has allowed for a full-time Care Coordinator Attendance Nurse. The School District has one Full-Time School Nurse Manager that oversees the Districts School Health Program.

The Care Coordinator Attendance Nurse works in collaboration with students, families, school nurses, administrators, care providers, staff and school counselors to help identify and address barriers and potential barriers (e.g. inequities, mental health, acute and chronic medical concerns etc...) causing chronic attendance issues. The Districts School Nurses work with students who have acute and chronic medical needs, behavioral needs/mental health, physical, and neurological concerns. We have an exceptional return to class rate of over 93%. School Nurses complete mandatory screenings of children which are required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) such as hearing, height, weight, scoliosis, and SBIRT. School Nurses monitor and maintain every student's School Health Record and Immunization Data to keep students up-to-date and compliant with MDPH Requirements. In October of 2022 the School District collaborated with Stop and Shop Pharmacy for a Flu Clinic offered to all children and staff members in the District (63 students and 55 school staff members were vaccinated). The School District participated in the DESE recommended symptomatic testing for COVID-19. Parents who consented to have their child tested were eligible for symptomatic Covid-19 Testing in school. Belchertown Public Schools Staff were also eligible. The School Nurses administered Symptomatic Covid-19 Testing until June of 2023.

The School Nurses are HeartSaver Instructors. The School Nurses train staff members in CPR/AED Certification for staff who want to be certified as well as for those it is a requirement for their job. We have 152 staff in the School District who include teachers, coaches, Intensive Needs Paraprofessionals, cafeteria employees, custodians, and Crisis Team Members, that are CPR/AED Certified. All the School Nurses are trained in Narcan administration. Each of the Schools in the District has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), one AED at the Central Office and Six AEDs are located at Belchertown High School; three of the six AEDs at BHS are for the Coaches and the Athletic Trainer to transport to the fields for school sporting events.

A Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNAS) is offered every other year to students in Grades 8th, 10th, and 12th. This survey includes questions regarding substance use and Mental Health Symptoms. Some of the questions on the survey also include protective factors such as participation in school, community activities, and opportunities for prosocial involvement. The PNAS results for our district are compared to the county and statewide results. Schools decide what interventions to initiate depending upon the PSNA Survey results. The school is also part of the Drug Free Community Grant that has been awarded $125,000.00 per year for five years; we are in year four. The School District also has a Healthy and Safer Schools Committee that meets a minimum of four times a year. This committee includes school administrators, school committee members, school guidance, and community members.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Keefe M.Ed., BSN, RN, NCSN
School Nurse Manager

Cold Spring School

During the 2023 school year, Cold Spring School provided 200 of the youngest students in the district with a high-quality, developmentally appropriate education in an enriched, safe, and diverse learning environment. We believe in educating the "whole child," emphasizing students' social-emotional development.

Our integrated preschool program includes three- and four-year-olds, which is an ideal stepping stone for kindergarten readiness. Currently, there are three preschool classrooms offering morning and afternoon half-day sessions. Due to the increase in students qualifying for the preschool program, the district allocated funding for a third classroom. The full-day kindergarten program for five and six-year-olds consists of eight classrooms. Twenty-seven of our preschoolers entered kindergarten in the fall, while one hundred and twenty-seven kindergarteners entered first grade.

Kindergarten educators continued the second year of implementation of the SAVVAS Myview literacy program. Teachers received professional development throughout the year, facilitating the sharing of ideas, teaching practices, and observation of each other's classrooms. This has enhanced teaching and enriched student learning through designed reading and writing lessons.

The universal free breakfast and lunch program continued during the 2023 academic year. The food service staff successfully met the increased demand for daily meals. As a result, fewer students visited the nurse due to hunger at the beginning of each school day.

In October 2022, Family Fun Fridays returned. Families were invited to their children's classrooms twice during the academic year to participate in various games and activities. This special event continued to be well received. Thanks to the educators who provided memorable experiences for our students and their families.

Culminating events at the end of the year included Kindergarten Field Day and the Preschool Moving Up Ceremony. A huge thank you to our generalist, Linda Fuhrmann, for planning and organizing Field Day. Students, families, and staff enjoyed this fun-filled experience. The Preschool Moving Up Ceremony was held for our littlest learners. Families and friends welcomed the opportunity to attend this milestone event. Thank you to preschool educators Holly Ruderman, Tammy Thomas, and Dusty Charbonneau, along with their classroom staff, for making memories for our students and families.

Thank you to the School Council for their continuous effort in working together to improve our school. This council comprises parents, community members, teachers, and administrators and meets throughout the year to develop and discuss topics pertinent to CSS and progress toward the school improvement plan. I appreciate their willingness to discuss various issues openly and share their ideas as we work collaboratively toward continuous improvement.

After two years, Cold Spring School welcomed back classroom volunteers and weekly guest readers. The PTO continued to support our students and staff, and Kindness Rocks shirts were purchased for all students through their generosity. In addition, the PTO funded several end-of-the-year performances. The students, faculty, and staff appreciate the support of our PTO.

Cold Spring School is a very special place, thanks to our students, educators, staff, and families. I am incredibly proud of our school community, which provides our youngest learners with a solid foundation as they embark on their educational journey within the Belchertown Public School district.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Mastalerz, Director

Swift River Elementary School

The Swift River Elementary School had a highly productive academic year in 2023. Our aim is to create a secure and age-appropriate learning setting that recognizes and celebrates every student's efforts, interests, and abilities. We are committed to enhancing student achievement by improving assessment and instruction with research-based programs and integrating the Science of Reading teaching practices to meet the diverse needs of all students. As a community of learners, we challenge and motivate all students to grow personally, socially, and academically in a respectful and positive learning environment, working towards success in a global society. Our foundation for learning is built on six principles: respect, responsibility, relationships, rigor, reflection, and resilience. We are proud to report that our total enrollment for grades one, two, and three is 472 students.

As the school year moves forward, we are excited to welcome new educators to Swift River Elementary and look forward to the experiences they will bring. Abby Holmes has joined our established third-grade team as a regular education teacher for grade 3. Additionally, Lisa Rainaud will serve as the Reading Specialist for grades 1, 2, and 3, supporting our assessment and intervention work while covering for a colleague on maternity leave. These exceptional educators were selected from many outstanding candidates who applied for positions in Belchertown, and we feel fortunate to have them join our staff in the fall of 2023.

As we welcomed our new educators to Swift River Elementary, we had to say farewell to a talented Administrative Assistant moving into retirement. Ms. Susan DeTorrice has been a part of the Belchertown school district for 21 years and now has decided to focus on traveling and visiting her daughter. We wish her well in her retirement and continued success in her future life plans.

Over the course of 2023, there has been a lot of planning and restructuring to meet the needs of our students and state requirements. Every school year, we review and evaluate the needs of our students and determine educational resources, programming, and direct instructional needs. This task came with an understanding of budgetary allowances and the ability to work within guidelines to produce highly impactful practices and models.

Our technology approach for the 2023 school year has been steadily growing to integrate differentiated teaching practices and assessment tools for real-time data to enhance instruction. Our technology is available in each classroom throughout the school building, and access to our computer lab in our Media Center provides keyboarding skills and work that support research products. The technology allows students to do research, reinforce skills, and monitor progress to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional strategies being used. We will continue these practices as we adjust to provide this same experience through this time. Our teachers continue to attain higher proficiency levels, integrating technology into their lessons. The various technologies used in the classroom are interactive projectors, document cameras, software programs that support skill development for individual learning and reinforcement, and facilitate classes with organization and communication through Google Classroom. As mentioned, we will continue to provide keyboarding skills to prepare for computer-based MCAS assessment and upgrade and provide new Dell computers to accommodate the upgrades necessary for the assessment. Every student in grades one through three has Google accounts to access many technology tools available to them. Students log into their accounts to access the typing component from “Learning without Tears” program to prepare them in response to prompts and short answer questions necessary for assessments.

We continue to implement our Reading Series, SAVVAS myview, by delivering a consistent approach to literacy instruction for kindergarten through grade 5 while continuing professional development to support grade-level teachers. 2023 saw the completion of our Year 2 Savvas MyView ELA curriculum implementation and the start of our Year 3 implementation. Savvas MyView is a research-based ELA curriculum that follows the science of reading model; research shows that all students benefit from daily explicit instruction in the 5 components of reading - phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. During Year 2 implementation, pacing guides were established for all grade levels, a comprehensive assessment plan was completed, and Grades 1 & 2 teachers were trained in the Savvas Essentials Foundational Reading Skill program to be used in small-group instruction and to help supplement the phonics component of our core program.

As part of the comprehensive assessment plan, starting this school year, all students are being tested 3 times using Dibels, an evidence-based, widely used literacy screener that can be used to screen for dyslexia and provide important information on a student’s literacy development. Teachers use the data provided by Dibels to evaluate their whole group instruction and to target any areas of weakness during small group instruction. Progress monitoring is used to assess the effectiveness of the small-group instruction.

We continue to provide equity in our inclusion classrooms by utilizing six different instructional delivery models and furthering their collaborative work through additional professional development. By the school adopting an inclusive design model, all classrooms will reinforce instruction through intervention groups based on a variety of methods that provide the opportunity for differentiated centers that extend/support reading and writing that has been taught in the classroom. We have also implemented many supplementary instruction/materials into our daily math teaching to cover all the topics covered in the new curriculum map and develop appropriate assessments.

Our Arts Enrichment program is an integral part of the culture at SRE and has been running for eight years now, catering to students in grades 2 and 3. Recently, opportunities for grade 1 students were added to the program, making it even more exciting and accessible. Approximately 270 students participate in the program. The Enrichment Programs have significantly impacted the social and emotional development of all of our students, with fewer conflicts and discipline issues addressed by the administration. We have built over the past several years an assortment of activities, all to the credit of our staff stepping outside of the box to explore areas of hands-on, inquiry, and collaborative exploration. Some of our offerings include Early Choral Singing, Storytelling, Lego Fun, Piano Lab, Everything Art, Cooperative Games, Garden Club, and so many more.

The breakfast program continues to be successful and provides students each morning with a healthy breakfast to start the day. Our nurse supports the cafeteria staff noticing fewer students going to the nurse for hungry tummies. Both Breakfast and Lunch continue to be free for all students for the remaining days of the school year.

During the 2023 school year, Swift River Elementary School responds to both academic and social-emotional needs by implementing a framework using principles of our culture-building programs, PeaceBuilders, with the added structure of Tier 1 & 2 strategies, which staff use techniques and strategies from Polly Bath training and a curriculum based program approved by the state "Acting with Purpose." All of this is in place, and work continues to evolve to create sustainability each year. A Behavior Support Team (BST) continues to develop continuity that connects the entire school to families, focusing on monthly themes that represent our value words, kindness, respect, safety, and responsibility. We hope that we treat everyone in our community with respect and kindness and teach those skills and values to students to carry them forward.

With advice and assistance from the SRE School Council, the accomplishments mentioned in this report and the completion of other projects became a reality. School Council members for 2023 were: Robert Kuhn, co-chair/principal; Ivy Peritz-Smith, co-chair/assistant principal; Jillian Majka, teacher representative; Melissa Roy, teacher representative; Elizabeth Moody, parent representative; Erica Fisher, parent representative, and Jennifer Torna as the community representative. The School Council would like to acknowledge and thank SRE teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff members, students, their parents/guardians, administration, and the community for their continued support of our schools and initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Robert Kuhn, Principal, Swift River Elementary School

Chestnut Hill Community School Principal's Report

At Chestnut Hill Community School, we are committed to providing all students with a rigorous learning experience in which they acquire the fundamental skills and social awareness necessary for success today and into the future. We continually look for ways to improve what we do so that our students can be prepared not only for the rest of their educational careers, but throughout life.

Developing the social-emotional growth of students is one of our priorities at Chestnut Hill. We incorporate our RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Empathy into all we do. Students participate in activities that reinforce these values throughout the year and they are evidenced in posters and other visual representations as you walk through our classrooms and halls. During morning announcements, as part of our efforts to create a more peaceful community, we discuss the value we are focusing on each month and recite our peacebuilders pledge. To reinforce that pledge and our values, monthly drawings are held to recognize students for their efforts.

We continue to utilize the Botvin LifeSkills Program in grades 4-6. This research-based program helps to increase self-esteem, develop healthy attitudes, and improve students' knowledge of essential life skills - all of which promote healthy and positive personal development and promote social-emotional growth.

We continue to have a strong band and chorus program at Chestnut Hill. In March, "Belchertown Night" with the Springfield Thunderbirds Hockey Club was held. This special family event featured the 6th Grade Chorus singing the National Anthem. In March, the 6th Grade band and chorus concert was held. In May, the 5th Grade band and chorus concert was held. In November, 6th Grade Band and Chorus performed at the Annual Veteran's Day Concert. Also in November, the 4th grade chorus sang at the annual Belchertown Cultural Council's Winter Light Night event on the town common. I would like to recognize the hard work of both Mr. Jason Mosall, band director, and Ms. VanElls, chorus director.

On February 17, we recognized National Random Acts of Kindness Day and continued our kindness efforts for the entire week leading up to winter break. There were grade level assemblies, special announcements, and various classroom activities that promoted kindness.

In June we enjoyed many end of year festivities including field days and field trips. Families were invited to attend an outdoor luncheon celebrating the end of elementary school for our sixth grade students.

At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, we saw 158 students move up to seventh grade and with the start of the 2023-2024 school year, CHCS welcomed 158 fourth graders for a total of 488 students in grades 4, 5, and 6.
During 2023, there were several staffing changes. Mrs. Ingram (Grade 4 Teacher) retired after many years of dedicated service to Belchertown Public Schools. In addition, Mrs. Walker (Grade 5) and Mr. Berg (Grade 6) left the district to pursue their careers elsewhere. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year we welcomed new staff to join our CHCS family: Ms. Mackiewicz, Mrs. Crowe, and Ms.Ozdarski.

Throughout the school year, students had the opportunity to participate in enrichments that enhance the base curriculum and provide various learning opportunities that they may not otherwise experience. There were several sessions offering various options for students during their recess block. Some of the activities included Arts & Crafts, Kickball, Magic the Gathering, Mileage Club, and Songwriting, and Jazz Band.

Chestnut Hill Community School was proud to join more than 80 million Americans that took part in the largest drug prevention campaign in the nation: Red Ribbon Week, October 23-27. With support from Belchertown Understanding Obstacles in Youth (BUOY), we promoted the importance of living a healthy life through morning educational and motivational announcements as well as spirit days.

In November, as part of the SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program, students in grades 5 welcomed members of the Belchertown Fire Department to CHCS for presentations regarding fire prevention and evacuation procedures. We truly value this partnership with our local fire department.

Thank you to the School Council for their continuous effort in working together to improve our school. This council, which is made up of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators meet monthly to develop and discuss topics pertinent to CHCS and progress towards the school improvement plan. I appreciate their willingness to have open discussions about various topics and for sharing their ideas as we work collaboratively towards continuous improvement.

The PTO continues to be a tremendous support for our entire school community. From organizing school events and gifts for teachers to supplementing field trips, we could not succeed without their generous support. My sincere thanks goes to the entire PTO as well as all those who support the PTO for making this possible!

Due to the universal free breakfast and lunch program for all students, the food service staff continued to meet the increased demand for daily meals. The efforts of the food service workers are to be commended.

Finally, I would like to recognize the outstanding dedication of our entire faculty and staff who, on a daily basis, work to ensure that the experiences of our students are engaging, motivating, and promote lifelong learning. It is my honor and privilege to work with you each day. I also want to extend my appreciation to the entire CHCS community for their continued support. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Jennifer Champagne, Principal, Chestnut Hill Community School

Jabish Brook Middle School (JBMS) Principal's Report

Jabish Brook Middle School serves the middle school population of seventh and eighth grade students in Belchertown. Two grades are served in a building originally designed as a junior-senior high school over 60 years ago. It has been our mission to serve our middle school population with a blended model that combines the junior high school design with the middle school concept to serve the social, physical, emotional and academic needs of our students in this building. Our annual challenge is to successfully transition our students from the intermediate level of instruction to the secondary level, and in two short years, prepare our students for the demands and challenges of the high school environment. A team teaching model, designed to foster a student centered educational environment, continued at Jabish Brook Middle School through 2023 to meet this challenge.
2023 showed areas of growth and areas of need in the operations of the middle school. Most notably was the incidence of racial and ethnic slurs that brought local, state and federal attention to the social issues being experienced throughout our country and within our community. While any such incidents of hatred are of concern, and must be both acknowledged and addressed, much attention was given to the incident, and not the response. I believe that the response to this incident should be given equal attention and also recognized.

A coordinated and immediate response was initiated cooperatively within our community to address the incident of hatred fueled by ignorance and social media influences upon our middle school population. While I was dismayed by the occurrence, it remains clear that Belchertown was not immune to such incidents. I am pleased to report that a thorough and cooperative response was immediately initiated. The Belchertown School District responded to this incident openly by communicating the details to our school community and worked directly with numerous community resources. This included elected and appointed town officials, local religious and community organizations, state and local emergency and social services agencies; including the Belchertown Select Board, our Belchertown School Committee and Police Department, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Collaborative for Educational Services, the Massachusetts Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Community Relations Department of the Department of Justice. In April, building and district administrative staff met with these agencies and worked cooperatively to review and respond to the incident of hatred in our school community. We remained firm in our commitment to foster a school culture where everyone can feel safe to learn and where everyone can feel that they belong.

The Belchertown community convened on the town common in April to support these efforts and to take a formal stance against hate in our community. Educational services, including the ADL "No Place for Hate" program, the Department of Justice "United Against Hate" program were implemented, and the Joy and Justice Team at the Collaborative for Educational Services was brought in to support our faculty and staff to address our entire school community. Comprehensive advisory lessons were conducted throughout the school year to continue our work against such incidents in our school, culminating in a presentation by Henia Lewin, holocaust survivor, who spoke and explained her experience with our students directly. These efforts were a part of the larger social issue of increases in racial, ethnic and religious discrimination that have been occurring throughout the nation, and which saw an immediate and collective response to act on behalf of all students, to ensure that everyone feels safe and free to learn in a safe school environment.

Belchertown has continued into the second phase of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program, and the results of the feasibility study have been approved to consider a new middle school building to replace the existing Jabish Brook Middle School. The Schematic Design Phase began in the fall of 2023 and will present a new building proposal to be considered through a town meeting and a town election vote in 2024. We appreciate the efforts of the district administration and the town building committee for their time and commitment to assess our capacity to provide a more conducive educational environment. I look forward to a cooperative effort to pursue both the need to service our students that meets the demands of the 21st century while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our community.

Jabish Brook Middle School continues to integrate our counseling services and trauma-informed practices into the classroom. Curriculum meetings are integrating a scaffolding approach to increasing academic work performance, and teachers are working harder than ever to find alternative methods to provide academic support for student learning and demonstrate academic proficiency in student assessments. The ability to maintain a safe learning environment with the assistance of our building and district nursing staff, and the cooperative efforts of our school community to rebuild our capacity to support our student needs are leading us in our recovery to return to a high level of academic performance by our students.

It is through the cooperative effort of our school community that JBMS works to provide a positive and productive learning environment for our community. I am indebted to our professional faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to this mission, and to our parents, guardians, students and families for their support. I am very proud to be part of a community that has worked so hard cooperatively for the benefit of our students.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Thomas K. Ruscio, Principal
Jabish Brook Middle School

High School (BHS) Principal's Report

In 2023, Belchertown High School's accomplishments stand as a testament to a year marked by success and achievement. Academically, our students have excelled in various subjects, showcasing their dedication to learning and the effectiveness of our school's educational programs. Beyond academics, our Nest has fostered a vibrant and inclusive community, with students actively participating in extracurricular activities, athletics, and community service. Overall, the high school's achievements underscore a year marked by growth, unity, and success, leaving a positive impact on the educational landscape of the town. The Belchertown High School educational community continues to foster academic excellence and responsible citizenship in a positive, safe, and respectful environment in order to develop productive contributors to a diverse and democratic society.

In January, Tadan Baker, Connor Hoag, Kasey Gibbons, Janelle Gummeson, Aidan Messier, Brielle Murray, and Ori Sussman were accepted to the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association All State Music Festival and Concert!

In February, it was announced that our Cooking Club received first place at the Springfield Museums Flour to Fables Gingerbread Contest. Our Cooking Club's entry "A Taste of Fairy Tales" was most impressive and a true interdisciplinary project!

In March, we recognized our Boys' and Girls' Swim Teams, our Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams and our Hockey Team on their participation in the MIAA Tournament!

In May and June, we celebrated the Class of 2023. On Tuesday, May 30th, after graduation rehearsal, our seniors took part in the Senior Walk outside of Swift River Elementary School and Chestnut Hill Community School where they were cheered on by their former educators and future Orioles!

On Tuesday, May 30th the Senior Awards Ceremony took place in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium. Over $75,000 in scholarships was presented to our seniors during the awards ceremony. The awarding of these scholarships would not be possible without the generosity of the many groups and organizations in the community – a special thank you to them for assisting our bright and talented students in their pursuit of educational, work, and military opportunities.

On Thursday, June 1st, the Class of 2023 graduated students from Belchertown High School. The ceremony was held on the stadium field with family, friends, and educators in attendance celebrating the accomplishments of the class. Speeches were given by Ms. Janelle Gummeson, valedictorian of the class, Mr. Daniel Holden, salutatorian of the class, and Ms. Hailey Smith, president of the Class of 2023.

On Tuesday, June 15th, 165 undergraduates received 287 awards during our Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. These students not only demonstrated a great commitment to their academic work but they also showed tremendous dedication and enthusiasm to our Nest and the community outside of our Nest. These were some pretty incredible students who have a great deal going on in their lives but continue to make their education a top priority. The contributions that they have made in so many different areas also need to be acknowledged – their efforts in the National Art Society, Humanities Club, Social Justice Book Club, with the yearbook, their contributions to the BHS Band, Choral, and Drama Programs, Programs, Science Club, Gender and Sexuality Acceptance Club, Cooking Club, Spanish Club, Anime Club, Saving Endangered Animals Club, American Sign Language Club, Games Club, Ping Pong Club, Crochet Club, Debate Club, BHS Buddies, As Schools Match Wits, their contributions to our athletic program, their leadership on our Student Council and as class officers, their talent as writers and artists, the ways they have persevered and overcome obstacles in their lives. They are very special individuals – not only are they great students, they are great people – they are to be applauded for the academic excellence they display, for respecting and valuing themselves, their school environment, and the diversity of our Nest.

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 was the last day of the 2022 - 2023 school year. Our educators were reminded to be proud of all that they did to keep our students educated, engaged, enthused, entertained, and most importantly connected - connected to them, connected to their classmates, connected to their education! Our students were so very fortunate to have had our educators in their lives! A great debt of gratitude goes out to each and every educator for all that they did for our students, our families, and for each other! Belchertown High School is the very special place it is because of our educators! It was now a time for them to rest, relax, rejuvenate, recharge, recuperate, and reflect and show themselves the same kindness, compassion, and patience that they showed everyone else!

On Tuesday, August 22nd, we welcomed the Class of 2027 and New Students to the Nest! Our student orientation volunteers provided our new students with an amazing introduction to the Nest!

On Wednesday, August 30th, the orange carpet was rolled out as we welcomed our educators and the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 back into the Nest!

Our community met in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium where "Notes from Our Nest" were shared with our educators and students.

Note #1 Sometimes it rains. Sometimes it rains...a lot. Sing anyway. Dance anyway.

Just like an outdoor concert venue, we cannot control many of the circumstances in which we work. Be it funding or federal mandates, baggage or background, we are asked to work with students every day in an environment with so many variables. And, on the toughest of those days, it can be tempting to focus on the "rain" and lament our "bad luck." But, like it or not, as we saw this summer…again and again…the rain will be there, whether we like it or not. So, if we cannot control it, we can prepare for it and make the best of it with the right outlook. As basketball legend Jerry West once said, "You can't get much done in life if you only work on the days when you feel good." So, get your poncho and your best attitude and sing your heart out and dance your feet off…even in a downpour.

Note #2 Be open to beauty and diversity that might be "different" to you.

On the surface, Alison Krauss, an American bluegrass-country singer and fiddler (who has won the fourth-most Grammys of all-time) and Robert Plant, the lead singer and lyricist for the British rock Band, Led Zeppelin, would seem to have nothing in common. Yet, their collaborations over the years have won critical acclaim and a number of awards and have given audiences a new way to think about and appreciate both artists. Whether it is an edgier rock beat behind a traditional Krauss tune or a decidedly bluegrass feel to a Zeppelin classic, it is impossible to ignore the new and different versions created by this collaboration. While it may not be exactly what audiences are used to, or even what they are expecting, it is undoubtedly beautiful art in its own right. Let's remind ourselves to be open to the new possibilities presented by things that might be different to us. Let's embrace those possibilities and in so doing deepen and enrich our own experience.

Note #3 Learn from your prior experiences. Adapt. Grow.

We make mistakes, learn new things, and get access to data we may not have had before every day. If we are not making a daily effort to incorporate this new information…these experiences…into our planning and practices moving forward, then we are missing a golden opportunity to be better educators for our students and for ourselves. Let's be on the lookout for those opportunities wherever and however they might present themselves.

Note #4 FLY!!!!!! (And don't let anyone tell you that you can't or shouldn't!)

The point is this: there are always going to be people out there who tell us all the reasons we can't fly or shouldn't fly. Let them. And then, follow your heart, embrace your passion, and FLY!

Note #5 Honor the work of "experts" while creating your own masterpieces.

In mid-July, Belchertown welcomed former Hall and Oates guitarist and Saturday Night Live bandleader, G.E. Smith to the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium for a musical performance and symposium. Smith was wonderful in both his performance and his storytelling. He regaled us with stories of the blues and folk guitar legends who preceded him and he played some of their classics. He talked about how his own work would have been impossible without the giants who came before. Music, and education, are at their best when we honor this dynamic tension between the established and the innovative.

Nowhere was this on better display than with our own student rock band who came together only a week or so before Smith's arrival on campus to prepare a few covers, including a cover of one of Smith's own songs! The result was breathtaking. While Smith may have been the headliner, our students stole the show. Whether it was the sounds of Stevie Nicks or Carly Simon, they took songs the audience knew and loved and made them indelibly their own. Honor and create: in so many ways, these are two of the key elements of education.

Concerts are interactive, multi-sensory experiences that require both artist and audience, performer and populace. They transpire in a setting that is simultaneously both public and private, in which multiple variables could come up at any moment to change or disrupt even a well-scripted plan or playlist. Sound like anything with which you all might be familiar?!? I bet it does….

May the music within you animate and enlighten the lives you will change this year!

A Veterans' Day Assembly was held in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium on Thursday, November 9th. Special thanks to Ms. Vaz and Student Council for organizing our Veteran's Day Assembly on Thursday, November 9th. Thanks to Ms. Folli for introducing Colonel Adam Reich IV, retired US Army. Thanks to Colonel Reich for speaking and sharing his story and message. Thanks to Staff Sergeant Talley for posting the colors. Thanks to Mr. Guerraz and our Choir for their beautiful voices! Thanks to Mr. Caster and our Band for their amazing sound! Thanks to Braeden Meighan and Christina Santiago for playing Taps so well during our solemn ceremony. And thanks to our students for the respect they showed during this solemn ceremony.

Our Fall athletic season was very successful. Our Boys' Cross-Country Team, Field Hockey Team, Girls' Volleyball Team, Football Team, Girls' Soccer Team and Boys' Soccer Team all qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. Congratulations to all of our Fall student- athletes, coaches, caregivers, and fans on a great fall season! Thanks to Ms. Gouvin, Ms. Leger, and Ms. Phillips for all of their efforts. Special thanks to our Seniors for their contributions to our fall athletic program.

A very special thank you to Ms. Teixeira, Ms. McNeill, and Ms. Folli for organizing the Alumni Career Fair. It was so good to hear from our graduates as they shared their experiences with our juniors who were great listeners and participants! It was an incredible morning with all of our Orioles! Liz Chouinard 1998 Lawyer, William Goulet 2009 Structural Engineer, Jason Robinson 2015 Police Officer, Tyler J. Keefe 2010 Assistant District Attorney District Attorney of New York Trial Bureau 30 Hate Crimes Unit, Gregory Gould 1995 Professional Land Surveyor at Sherman & Frydryk P.L.S. (Professional Land Surveyor), Matt Jackson 1996 Broker RE/MAX Swift River, Sarah Woodcock 2013 Senior Program Manager with Amazon Fresh, Lynne Raymer 1996 Chief Financial Officer at Clarke School for the Deaf, Carol Donoghue 1993 Insurance agency Business owner, Dave O'Brien 1990 arborist/manager for Lewis Tree Service, Ryan Donoghue 2019 Linesman for Eversource, Leora Barry 1999 Occupational Therapist, Jillian Mason 1998 Nurse, Nick Cowdrey 1999 Managing Director of News and Programming for Spectrum News 1, Ruthie Sterling 2013 Teen Services Coordinator & Library Technician for the Clapp Memorial Library, Monika Normand 2010 Monika Normand Photography Photographer/ Owner Amanda Sowa 1998 Director of Quality Control/ Systems Admin for a Mortgage Company, Jillian Hevey 1999 Physician Assistant, Heather Lacroix 1996 Head of Customer Service, North American, BYK USA, Brenden Normand 2016 Owner, Tall Tree Landscapes, Jordan L. Conrad 2012 Associate Talent Acquisition Partner, Kelsey LaValle 2010.

Physical Therapist, David Couture 1997 Pharmacist, Eric McCurdy 2004 Psychologist, Leeanne Leclerc 1999 Academic Advisor, Dept. of Kinesiology, UMass Amherst, Katie O'Leary 2015Artist Management @ Another Planet Mgmt, Kelly Mateus 1997 Dental Hygienist, Nicholas Jimenez 2013 Police Officer, Brittany Browning 2010 Physician Assistant, Jessica Dias 1998 Veterinarian, Sarah Maroney 2005 Owner Baking Business, Bryan Maroney 2006 Audio Visual Industry, Laura Freeman 2014 Manager of Donor Relations, Kimberley Thornton 2014 Senior Marketing Coordinator, Samantha Surner 2005 Claims Regulatory Compliance Administrator, Emily Alibozek 2015 Surgical Technologist Jennifer Darcy 1994 Copyright Permissions Manager Project Manager, Madi Duffy 2019 CRM Operations Coordinator, Michele Cozine 1993 Biologist, James Desjardins 2013 Software Security Engineer for sharing their school and work experiences.

The following members of the Class of 2023 were recognized as John and Abigail Scholarship recipients based on their performance on the high school MCAS English Language Arts and Mathematics tests by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Based on their high academic achievement they have qualified to receive a four year scholarship upon acceptance to a Massachusetts public institution of higher education including the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts, all nine state universities and all fifteen community colleges - Zoe Bate, Brooke Burrows, Olivia Corbin, Madison DaCosta, Andrew Daponde, Cadence Demers, Avi Duseau, Nora Dyer Murphy, Nathan Fernandes, Ellie Gelinas, Derek Gould, Georgia Greenough, Joshua Grillo, Ashanti Hart, Connor Hoag, Rainer Kristensen, Olivia Lafayette, Tanner Lockwood, Chloe Macaluso, Claudia Marques, Braeden Meighan, Dax Morin, Brielle Murray, Maxine Okyere Baffour, Kaitlyn Park, Skyler Park, Zoe Patten, Caleb Perron, Priscilla Pootoolal, Christopher Rivers, Mason Rodrigues, Karyna Rondeau, Olivia Rosati, Christina Santiago, Camden Skaggs, Nico St. George, Brooke Stelmokas, Victoria Sullivan, Daniel Thompson, Cameron Ting, Megan Watts, Trevor Weiss, Eddie Williams, and Maggie Williams.

Belchertown High School is the very special place it is because of our students, our educators, and our families! Our Nest is one in which all of our Orioles feel safe, valued, and validated!

I could not be more proud of our students and educators for the relationships that have been fostered and maintained and the respect, responsibility, reflection, and resilience that continues to be shown as outstanding teaching and learning complete with rigor takes place every day in our Nest!

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Vigneux
Belchertown High School Principal

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECVHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee, along with Superintendent Eric Duda, is pleased to present this report to the citizens of the nine-town District. The School Committee consists of the following members: Julie Quink from Hardwick serving as Chairperson, David Droz from Palmer serving as Vice Chairman, Robert Lavoie from Palmer, Lorraine Alves from Belchertown serving as Secretary, Francesco Dell'Olio also from Belchertown, April Judicki from Granby, Marie Barbara Ray from Ware and Richard Fly (who began serving as a Ware member in March 2023), R. Keith Valley from Monson, John Nason from Warren, Martin Goulet from New Braintree, Jeffrey Nelson from Oakham, and Student Representative Morgan Brown from Palmer.

Community Outreach and Admissions

The Community Outreach and Admissions department achieved success in the past year. In addition to managing enrollment, this department oversees all community engagement efforts, communication, event planning, and media relations. Pathfinder Tech's enrollment as of October 1, 2023, reached 643 students, marking an overall increase from October 1, 2022. Total application numbers also rose from the previous year, indicating a continued heightened demand for career and technical education. The application figures up to December 31, 2023, suggest a potential record number of applications for the incoming class of 2028. Overall, there has been a noticeable growth in the total number of applications.

During Summer Bridge (new student orientation), approximately 176 students attended over three days in July and August. Students engaged in icebreaker activities, facilitating introductions and connections. Staff tours provided insights into all aspects of Pathfinder Tech. Placement tests were administered to finalize class schedules. Students received Class of 2027 t-shirts and left their mark by writing their first names in chalk on the cement outside the school. A group picture commemorated the beginning of their journey at Pathfinder Tech. Pathfinder Tech also maintained a presence at the Belchertown Fair for the second consecutive year. Cosmetology students volunteered for face painting and manicures, and visitors had the chance to win a Cribbage board crafted by the Advanced Manufacturing program. In November and December, annual events such as the 8th Grade Showcase and Career Night were held. The Showcase hosted 210 visiting students, offering them a taste of life at Pathfinder Tech and allowing them to take home their handmade projects. Career Night saw over 600 students and families in attendance. Both events were highly successful. Additionally, the community outreach department continued its efforts to engage with the community through Pathfinder Tech's social media platforms, sharing updates on events, fundraisers, department achievements, student highlights, and athletics updates.

2023 (FY24) Budget Information

In 2023, the School Committee approved a final FY24 budget of $15,443,177, marking a 5.70% increase over the FY23 Budget. All nine towns within the Pathfinder Regional District unanimously approved their assessments during their 2023 town meetings and council meetings, adhering to the regional school budget statute. Budget formulation and town assessments are determined based on the previous school year's October 1 enrollment.

Throughout 2023, Pathfinder Tech extended Free School Lunch services through a combination of the federal Community Eligibility Provision and new state funding, significantly benefiting students facing financial instability partly due to the COVID pandemic's economic repercussions. Moreover, leveraging the final year of federal COVID Relief funds, the school provided additional student support, including health services, counseling, technology upgrades, and capital purchases, largely funded by public and private grants, donations, and gifts totaling over $700,000.00.

While some concerns of the pandemic have waned, students continue to grapple with its social, emotional, and economic aftermath. Pathfinder Tech prioritizes data-driven decision-making to reallocate resources as needed, striving for fiscal responsibility amid finite state and local budget resources. Efforts include cost reduction strategies like health insurance plan adjustments, grant acquisition, utility net metering contracts, community partnerships, and internal infrastructure projects.

Ultimately, Pathfinder Tech's dedication to fiscal prudence ensures the delivery of high-quality technical education, providing graduates with a competitive advantage in the workforce or postsecondary pursuits.

Competitive Grants Overview

In early 2023, Pathfinder Tech secured a competitive Skills Capital grant of $188,000 to overhaul the cafeteria line. This initiative introduced new service stations equipped with advanced cooking and holding technology, enabling the provision of healthier meals to students while offering culinary students the chance to work with fresh ingredients. Additionally, a second Skills Capital grant totaling $491,905 was utilized to renovate the HVAC/R technical program, completely refurbishing the facilities and outfitting them with state-of-the-art equipment to enhance student training.

Further competitive grant awards facilitated various enhancements, including the provision of additional mental health services for students, the implementation of a Math Acceleration Academy during school breaks to bolster MCAS scores, the renovation of the staff lounge, the acquisition of kitchen equipment, the inaugural hosting of the Pathfinder Tech Arts and Culture Night, support for robotics competition expenses, scholarships for Advanced Manufacturing students, and the enrichment of MTSS initiatives. Cumulatively, these competitive grant awards exceeded $900,000, funding innovative improvements and initiatives beyond the general fund budget.

Cooperative Education and Vocational Technical Highlights

In 2023, Pathfinder Tech's Cooperative Education Program engaged 71 students, while 33 students participated in the WIOA program, contributing significantly to the local labor market.

Pathfinder Tech students excel in hands-on learning, applying analytical skills in real-world scenarios. Through the work request system, municipalities and residents of Pathfinder Tech's member towns can submit requests for discounted services.

In 2023, nearly 600 work requests were received, with around 70% of technical programs accepting requests from member towns. The programs provide services within the District, resulting in substantial taxpayer savings.

- The Automotive Technology program serviced 312 vehicles, saving community members over $145k compared to industry rates, including maintenance for the Palmer Police Department.
- The Carpentry program saved approximately $35k on various projects, including residential constructions and signage.
- The Collision Repair and Refinishing program saved nearly $15k servicing 46 vehicles and repaired police cruisers for Palmer, hosting a successful 30th annual Car Show.
- The Cosmetology program generated around $8.2k through client visits.
- The Culinary Arts program's restaurant, Perso, achieved $45k in sales and $6k in catering, volunteering to serve the Belchertown Senior Center.
- The Electrical program completed 25 community projects and campus electrical tasks.
- The Horticulture program organized spring and winter sales, decorated Storrowtown Village, designed floral displays for the Springfield Museum of Science, participated in town cleanups, and hosted floral design classes.
- The Plumbing & Pipefitting program completed five new construction plumbing jobs, collectively saving customers $14.4k.
- The Programming and Web Development program addressed 643 help-desk tickets and undertook web design projects for external clients.

Select Student Accomplishments

Spring 2023 Highlights:

- All six Business Technology students who participated in the Massachusetts Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference achieved top-five placements in their respective events.
- Two Hospitality Management students ranked in the top ten at the DECA state-level conference, with one advancing to the DECA International Career Development Conference.

- Ten students from the CAD/Pre-Engineering program obtained their Certified SolidWorks Associate certification, while four earned the Certified SolidWorks Associate-Additive Manufacturing certification, and two attained the Certified SolidWorks Professional certification.
- Eight Health Assisting Juniors successfully passed the demanding CNA exam.
- At the Massachusetts FFA Competition, a team of two students placed 2nd in Duo Chainsaw Demonstration, and one student secured 2nd place in the Food Science & Technology career development event.
- During the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference, students clinched a total of 17 medals, including 1st and 2nd in Automated Manufacturing Team, 1st in Health Knowledge Bowl Team, 2nd in Mobile Robotics Technology, 3rd in Automotive Refinishing Technology, 3rd in Plumbing, 3rd in Power Equipment Technology, and 3rd in Urban Search and Rescue Team. Those who secured 1st and 2nd places earned spots at the SkillsUSA MA State Leadership Conference.

Fall 2023 Highlights:

- The Pathfinder Tech Freshman class celebrated their technical program assignments during the Pathfinder Tech Program Signing Day, signing certificates committing to learning technical skills and demonstrating workplace professionalism.
- In September, the Horticulture program and FFA students received the Kevin Brown Founders Award for their float entry in the Belchertown parade.

Select Student Activities

The initial months of 2023 buzzed with student activities! Throughout January, February, and March, students engaged in fundraising efforts for their classes. They organized Krispy Kreme sales, conducted a Valentine's Day Flower sale and candy guessing game, and coordinated restaurant dine-in nights at Antonio's Pizza in Belchertown. On April 14th, an amusing late Pi Day celebration took place, where students witnessed one teacher and one administrator receive a pie to the face from the Senior class president and the student representative of the school committee during an assembly. Proceeds from the "pie-to-the-face" ticket sales supported the Administration Scholarship Fund.

In April and May, class fundraising events included a bottle and can drive along with a soup fundraiser. The Class of 2023 hosted the Senior prom at Zukas Hilltop Barn in Spencer, Mass on May 12th, creating cherished memories. The Junior prom, organized by the Class of 2024, took place at UMASS Amherst Mass Mutual Center on May 19th.

The autumn of 2023 further fueled our school spirit with additional spirit days and weeks in October, November, and December. Events included a pink-out day for Breast Cancer Awareness month, a Halloween costume contest, and gym decorating ahead of the pep rally. Themed days like country western, favorite holiday, and PT apparel day saw enthusiastic participation from both students and staff, showcasing their school spirit! Our third annual fall pep rally was a tremendous success, preceded by a homecoming dance that brought together hundreds of our students for a memorable evening of fun and dancing!

The Pathfinder Tech Student Council collaborated with the community to support local charities through a food drive in November and a hat & mitten drive in December, along with raising a monetary donation to Breast Cancer Awareness.

The classes of 2024 and 2025 initiated fundraising efforts for their upcoming proms through Krispy Kreme and Big Fundraising Ideas sales, while the Class of 2026 organized a PT Jibbet fundraiser.

To conclude 2023, the Drama Club hosted their 2nd annual PT Talent Show, showcasing a diverse array of talents from speed painting to singing to instrumental performances. Wrapping up the year, our talented Culinary Arts department in collaboration with the Hospitality department treated both students and staff to a delightful Holiday Buffet.

Athletics Department

The Athletics Department maintains its commitment to providing a no-fee program, enabling all students to participate without any personal expenses for participation. The sports offered include baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, wrestling, and softball. Moreover, cross-country, ice hockey, girl's lacrosse, and field hockey were accessible through a cooperative agreement with Amherst, Monson, and Palmer. These offerings, which commenced in the fall of 2022, attracted twelve enrolled students.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Data-driven intervention strategies remained a primary focus in 2023 and carried forward into 2024. Collaborating with the Data Team, Progress reports, and Trimester reports were analyzed to tackle the high rate of student course failures. Extra help sessions during school vacations were introduced to offer students additional opportunities to catch up on missed work or receive assistance with specific assignments. Individual student schedules were tailored based on their specific academic needs.
In the 2023-2024 school year, a new instructional coaching program was established to support students in grades 9 and 10 in English and Math. Two instructional coaches dedicated their time to collect departmental data and assess student mastery of covered standards weekly. Students identified as not proficient were provided intervention sessions, temporarily withdrawing from their technical programs. Those who demonstrated proficiency early in the week were exempted from further intervention, while others continued to receive support. Additionally, multiple rounds of Mock MCAS testing were implemented to ensure students were adequately prepared for Spring assessments.

IXL, an online learning platform, saw increased integration across the curriculum in the 2023-2024 school year. Grades 9 and 10 students spent the initial 17 minutes of their technical programs working on IXL skills, while 11th and 12th graders dedicated 30 minutes weekly to technical program practice. Diagnostic testing through IXL aided in measuring student progress and informed data-driven decisions.

Math and ELA curriculum underwent comprehensive restructuring for grades 9 and 10 at the onset of the 2023-2024 school year. Drawing inspiration from successful regional vocational technical high schools, the pacing and sequencing of courses were redesigned. Teachers received stipends and collaborated with the Academic Director over the summer to finalize the new curriculum.

Professional Development sessions continued to be offered monthly after school, emphasizing best practices. Staff could choose from five different presentations led by Pathfinder Tech personnel, facilitating peer learning and knowledge sharing. Professional Development Points (PDPs) for these sessions, along with all other district-delivered professional development, were tracked and distributed through TeachPoint.

Guidance Department

The Guidance Department dedicated efforts to ensure students were prepared for college and careers by enhancing its curriculum and services. Utilizing Xello, an interactive college and career software, counselors guided students in career planning and readiness, closely monitoring their progress. They organized visits with military recruiters, college admissions officers, and coordinated post-secondary options and opportunities.

Emphasizing social-emotional support, the department expanded services with the addition of a new school adjustment counselor. This ensured students had access to responsive support for academic, personal, social, and career challenges. Collaborations with various entities included:

- Care Solace: Provided mental health care coordination for families.
- Ori: Offered a virtual curriculum platform focusing on transition and social-emotional learning.
- BHN Family Resource Center (Ware): Collaborated on tier two interventions and supports.
- Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance: Conducted awareness and training sessions on substance abuse, mental health, and diversity/inclusion. Mental Health First Aid Training was also provided.
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): Implemented a public health approach to identify students at risk of substance misuse.

Managing 504 Accommodation Plans, the department scheduled and facilitated meetings to update plans and ensure effective accommodations. They provided progress data for IEP meetings and contributed to student re-entry and safety plans.

In May, Pathfinder Tech celebrated its annual award events, inducting 50 students into the National Technical Honor Society and presenting 137 awards for academic and technical excellence during the Annual Awards Night Celebration.

The Class of 2023 graduated on June 2, 2023, with 124 students receiving diplomas, including one summer graduate. The ceremony awarded 70 scholarships from local supporters totaling nearly $20,000 to deserving graduates, with 35 class members receiving the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship for outstanding performance on MCAS.

Student Services Department

The Student Services department at Pathfinder Tech oversees Special Education, Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning initiatives, and English Learners programming.

During the 2023 school year, the department managed the Individual Education Plans (IEPs) of approximately 155 students. The dedicated team of teachers, paraprofessionals, and student support personnel focused on enhancing their team meeting process and IEP development.

In the realm of Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health, the department adopted ORI Learning, a well-being curriculum for all 9th graders. The MTSS Coordinator identifies areas of need and implements a Tiered System of Social Emotional support.

A full-time School Adjustment Counselor was added to address the social and emotional needs of students. The department maintains its partnership with Care Solace, connecting members of the Pathfinder Tech community with mental health and substance abuse providers.

During the 2022-2023 School year, the Department collaborated with the Office of Public School Monitoring to conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review (TFM).

The school introduced a Comfort Animal (English Cream Retriever) named “Scout” to the Pathfinder Tech community.

Special Programs Highlights

During the summer of 2023, 45 students from Pathfinder Tech and 22 students from other districts participated in summer school, collectively enrolling in 108 courses across 11 different sending districts. Revenue generated from out-of-district students covered the costs for Pathfinder Tech students this year, with most of the funding for summer school teachers coming from grants.

Additionally, we offered in-person summer school courses tailored to students who struggled academically throughout the year, providing extra support for English or Math courses.

Our Summer Youth Enrichment Program at Pathfinder Tech experienced its most successful season yet in July! Children aged 9-13 from local towns engaged in 15 diverse technical and educational programs, including Advanced Manufacturing, Baking, Junior Chef, Auto Body, Biking, Plumbing, Drama, First

Responders, and Woodworking. Spanning a three-week period, the sessions filled 395 spots, marking an increase of over 100 participants compared to the previous summer.

Adult Evening Education

The School of Adult Evening Education (P.M. Pathways) at Pathfinder Tech celebrated its inaugural year of course offerings with Electrical and Plumbing programs. These initiatives, made possible through a CTI grant from Commonwealth Corporation, align with our mission to engage and inspire the community through valuable educational opportunities.

Both Electrical and Plumbing programs commenced on January 20th, 2023, and concluded on June 26th, 2023. Achieving a combined graduation rate of 75%, each graduate obtained multiple industry-recognized credentials and a range of trade skills, enhancing their employability in their respective fields. Many graduates secured relevant employment, demonstrating a strong drive for personal and professional advancement.

Collaborative efforts with MassHire Springfield Career Center and the Hampden County Workforce aim to support the remaining graduates in their job placement endeavors. Analyzing workforce needs and utilizing employer-focused communication channels, we strive to foster stronger relationships and higher placement rates.

Upon the completion of the inaugural classes, we reviewed advertising, enrollment processes, course structures, and employment initiatives. Several enhancements were implemented to optimize program success, including an earlier enrollment period, MassHire pre-screening, interview process modifications, adoption of a new all-in-one software platform, and recruitment-focused event planning.

As of October, enrollment for the second year of cohort programs began, with increased efforts in advertisement through social media and radio ads. There was a 34% rise in overall applicants compared to the previous year. This increase in interest underscores the community's demand for additional course offerings. Plans for 2024 include the introduction of new programs tailored to community needs and demands, further solidifying our commitment to providing valuable educational opportunities.

Concluding Statement

As Pathfinder Tech embarks on its 51st year of providing high-quality career and technical education to our member communities, the school committee expresses its deep pride in the dedication of both staff and students. We extend our sincere gratitude to our legislators, town officials, and the various town meetings for their steadfast support.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Quink (Hardwick), Chairperson
David Droz (Palmer), Vice Chairperson
Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown), Secretary
Robert Lavoie (Palmer)
Francesco Dell'Olio (Belchertown)
R. Keith Valley (Monson)
April Judicki (Granby)

Martin Goulet (New Braintree)
Jeffrey Nelson (Oakham)
Marie Barbara Ray (Ware)
John Nason (Warren)
Morgan Brown, Student Member
Eric Duda, Superintendent-Director

VETERANS' GRAVES

For the year 2023, all of Belchertown's Veteran's Graves were flagged just prior to Memorial Day. A special thank you is extended to American Legion Post 239 for their flagging assistance at Mt Hope cemetery, as well as a thank you to Local VFW Post 8428 for their flagging assistance at South cemetery.

Help was also provided by a smaller group of Belchertown volunteers who supported flagging at Lake Vale, Hillcrest, Rural and Dwight Cemeteries. Additional flagging was complied with for Veteran's Day on the Town Common.

This year I applied for and received a historic preservation grant from the Belchertown CPA Committee. The money was used for gravestone restoration at South cemetery. There was also a matching grant for South Cemetery from the American Legion, VFW and Belchertown Police Dept. As of 2023, 240 gravestones have been restored with CPA funds.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent Viglione, Veteran's Graves Officer
Kathleen M. Wood, Assistant Veteran's Graves Officer

VETERANS' SERVICE AGENT

The year 2023 brought big changes for the office. The department's new physical address is 6C Berkshire Avenue. This move has been a positive one, brought more visibility and better accessibility for our community. I continued to flexibly adjust the way the office interacted with clients as well as the needs in the community. The year again provided increased opportunities in providing Local, Private, State and Federal benefits to Veterans and their families due to additional outreach, training and collaborations. The Veterans' Advisory Board appreciatively continued to provide valuable assistance to my office concerning Veterans' issues and planned Veteran activities in our Town. Additionally, the office continued to partner with local organizations and businesses to provide food and toiletries as well as holiday meals in November and December. I also was able to acquire and disseminate numerous winter coats and socks, gloves, scarves, slippers and hats. I was happily able to facilitate multiple donors in town anonymously providing local Veterans with generous grocery gift cards through the year as well. The small pantry outside my office for Veterans and their families increased in size due to two generous donations from the community. It remains stocked with donated hygiene items, food, household cleaners and clothing items. Most of these items being donated by the community- mainly local residents, myself, schools and local organizations. The pantry is well attended and feedback has been very positive.

Future plans for 2024 would include: 1) Continue to network resources for our Veterans' and their families in times of crisis or unforeseen circumstances to include fuel resources, meals and alternate income resources; 2) Additional public outreach to share information and availability regarding Veteran topics concerning VA, State benefits, food security and elder care issues; and, 3) Continuing to further streamline the process to file VA paperwork. My office will continue to work with Belchertown residents, organizations, and programs that support our Veterans and their families.

The VFW and my office are still actively accepting DD 214s to place qualified names on the Middle East War Memorial.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Charly N. Oliva

Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

VETERANS' SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

During 2023, the Veterans' Services Advisory Board continued to be integral in assisting my office in efficiently planning various Belchertown Veterans' ceremonies safely and honorably. In collaboration with the VSAB, my office was able to hold the Veterans' Day Ceremony as well as the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony in person again- safely and proficiently. Also, the VSAB continued to assist me with informing local Veterans' of available State and/or Federal veteran programs while maintaining safe distances and healthy protocols. This past Veterans' Day, the VSAB assisted in the planning and execution of pinning a Belchertown resident with his Purple Heart during our Veterans' Day Ceremony. This pinning was over 50 years after he was combat wounded in Vietnam. This was a well-planned and proud moment for our Board.

I wish to thank the Veterans and Select Board Members who serve on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board; your service to the Belchertown Veterans and my office is greatly appreciated. Additionally, I'd like to thank the Town Manager, Select Board and Advisory Board for their hard work in supporting my office through the year and its many challenges.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns for the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Charly N. Oliva

Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In the past year, the Board of Appeals received one application for Variance and one Special Permit application. The variance was denied, the special permit was granted.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jennifer Sharrow, Chair Person
Mark Hebert, Vice Chair
Brian Gibbons, Member
Wayne Versace, Associate Member
Dino Brunetti, Associate Member
Russell Sabadosa, Associate Member

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Balance Sheet - All Types, Funds, and Account Groups
for the Period Ended June 30, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Funds	Fiduciary Trust Funds & Agency	Long Term Debt	Totals (Memo Only)
ASSETS							
Cash	5,796,286.28	8,845,642.63	481,397.01	1,043,870.92	3,820,678.74		19,987,875.58
Petty Cash Advance	165.00						165.00
Accounts Receivable:							
Property Taxes	401,064.40						401,064.40
Chapter 61	0.00						0.00
Excise Taxes	226,030.16						226,030.16
Tax Liens	264,976.97			13,640.53			278,617.50
Special Assessments	0.00			2,070,849.49			2,070,849.49
Departmental	976,118.06			378,856.97			1,354,975.03
Less Allow. for Uncollectible	(228,842.40)						(228,842.40)
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90						53,543.90
Lieu Taxes	0.00						0.00
CPA/Stormwtr Surcharge Receivable		4,204.37		36,100.11			40,304.48
Due From Other Governments	124,633.00	114,554.60					239,187.60
Amt. To be Provided-Notes Paya	0.00	154,970.00					154,970.00
Amt. To be Provided-Pmt of Debt						8,025,697.34	8,025,697.34
Amt. To be Prov.-Comp. Absenci						407,660.36	407,660.36
Total Assets	7,613,975.37	9,119,371.60	481,397.01	3,543,318.02	3,820,678.74	8,433,357.70	33,012,098.44
LIABILITIES							
Warrants Payable	597,875.41	279,175.57	3,809.45	94,241.50	4,203.10		979,305.03
Employee Withholdings	1,206,091.36						1,206,091.36
Deferred Revenue:							
Property Taxes	85,691.51						85,691.51
Chapter 61	0.00						0.00
Excise Taxes	226,030.16						226,030.16
Tax Liens	264,976.97			13,640.53			278,617.50
Special Assessments	0.00			2,070,849.49			2,070,849.49
Lieu Taxes	0.00						0.00
Departmental	976,118.06			378,856.97			1,354,975.03
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90						53,543.90
CPA/Stormwtr Surcharge Receivable		3,470.79		36,100.11			39,570.90
Government Receivable	124,633.00	114,554.60					239,187.60
Grant Receivable							0.00
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable		154,970.00					154,970.00
Prepaid property taxes/CPA	86,530.49	733.59					
Unclaimed Checks	9,504.19						9,504.19
Excess on Land of Low Value	(6,536.80)						(6,536.80)
Bond Indebtedness						8,025,697.34	8,025,697.34
Compensated Absences						407,660.36	407,660.36
Total Liabilities	3,624,458.25	552,904.55	3,809.45	2,593,688.60	4,203.10	8,433,357.70	15,212,421.65
FUND EQUITY							
Reserve for Encumbrances	159,570.09	0.00		23,303.78			182,873.87
Reserve for Expenditures	1,585,358.00	255,089.49		632,802.00			2,473,249.49
Unreserved Fund Balance	2,244,589.03						2,244,589.03
Reserved Fund Balance		8,290,959.69	477,587.56	293,523.64	3,816,475.64		12,878,546.53
Title V Septic System Loan		20,417.88					20,417.88
Total Fund Equity	3,989,517.12	8,566,467.06	477,587.56	949,629.42	3,816,475.64	0.00	17,799,676.80
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	7,613,975.37	9,119,371.61	481,397.01	3,543,318.02	3,820,678.74	8,433,357.70	33,012,098.45

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
General Fund Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

ASSETS		
Cash		5,796,286.28
Petty Cash Advance		165.00
Accounts Receivable:		
Property Taxes	401,064.40	
Chapter 61	0.00	
Excise Taxes	226,030.16	
Tax Liens	264,976.97	
Lieu Taxes	0.00	
Departmental	976,118.06	
Governmental Receivable-Veterans:	124,633.00	
Less Allowance for Uncollectible	(228,842.40)	
		1,763,980.19
Due from Other Governments		0.00
Amount to be Provided for Notes Payable		0.00
Tax Foreclosure		53,543.90
Total Assets		7,613,975.37
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Warrants Payable		597,875.41
Employee Withholdings		1,206,091.36
Deferred Revenue:		
Property Taxes	85,691.51	
Chapter 61	0.00	
Excise Taxes	226,030.16	
Tax Liens	264,976.97	
Lieu Taxes	0.00	
Departmental	976,118.06	
Governmental Receivable-Veterans:	124,633.00	
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90	
		1,730,993.60
Prepaid property taxes		86,530.49
BANS Payable		0.00
Excess on Land of Low Value		(6,536.80)
Unclaimed Checks		9,504.19
Total Liabilities		3,624,458.25
FUND EQUITY		
Reserve for Expenditures		1,585,358.00
Reserve for Encumbrances		159,570.09
Unreserved Fund Balance		2,244,589.03
Total Fund Equity		3,989,517.12
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity		7,613,975.37

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Special Revenue - Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

			GRANTS			School		Totals
	CPA	Highways	Federal	State	School Lunch	Revolvings	Departmental	(Memo Only)
ASSETS								
Cash	1,283,953.18	146.10	2,293,734.70	(318,137.66)	848,313.83	212,944.47	4,524,688.01	8,845,642.63
Petty Cash Advance								0.00
Due From Commonwealth		114,554.60						114,554.60
Amt to be Provided-Notes Payable	154,970.00							154,970.00
Surcharge Receivable (thru FY23)	4,204.37							4,204.37
Due from Federal Government								0.00
Total Assets	1,443,127.55	114,700.70	2,293,734.70	(318,137.66)	848,313.83	212,944.47	4,524,688.01	9,119,371.60
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants Payable	4,048.00	158,604.90	47,681.59	27,795.38	6,002.44	6,616.01	28,427.25	279,175.57
Deferred Rev - Gov't Receivable		114,554.60					0.00	114,554.60
Employee Withholdings								0.00
Bond Anticipation Note	154,970.00							154,970.00
Deferred Rev - Surcharge Rec'bl	3,470.78							3,470.78
Early pmt of '24 CPA Surcharge	733.59							733.59
Deferred Rev - Grant Receivable								0.00
Total Liabilities	163,222.37	273,159.50	47,681.59	27,795.38	6,002.44	6,616.01	28,427.25	552,904.54
Fund Equity:								
Desig. for Subs Years Expense	1,024,815.69	(158,458.80)	2,246,053.11	(345,933.04)	842,311.39	206,328.46	4,475,842.88	8,290,959.69
Reserve for Open Space	33,604.37							33,604.37
Reserve for Historic Resources	101,077.82							101,077.82
Reserve for Community Housing	120,407.30							120,407.30
Reserve for Encumbrance								0.00
Title V Septic System Loan							20,417.88	20,417.88
Total Fund Equity	1,279,905.18	(158,458.80)	2,246,053.11	(345,933.04)	842,311.39	206,328.46	4,496,260.76	8,566,467.06
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	1,443,127.55	114,700.70	2,293,734.70	(318,137.66)	848,313.83	212,944.47	4,524,688.01	9,119,371.60

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Fund
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

	JBMS School Building Constr.	Capital Proj. /Equipment	Sewer upgrades	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	(110,817.50)	521,804.86	70,409.65	481,397.01
WPAT Receivable			0.00	0.00
U.S.D.A. Grant Receivable			0.00	0.00
Amt. To be Prov. For Notes Pay.				0.00
Total Assets	(110,817.50)	521,804.86	70,409.65	481,397.01
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	0	3,809.45	0.00	3,809.45
Deferred Rev.-WPAT Rec'ble				0.00
Deferred Rev.-USDA Grant				0.00
Bond Anticipation Note				0.00
Grant Anticipation Note Payable				0.00
Total Liabilities	0	3,809.45	0.00	3,809.45
Fund Equity:				
Reserved Fund Balance	(110,817.50)	517,995.41	70,409.65	477,587.56
Total Fund Equity	(110,817.50)	517,995.41	70,409.65	477,587.56
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	(110,817.50)	521,804.86	70,409.65	481,397.01

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Enterprise Funds - Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	591,089.03	180,136.59	272,645.30	1,043,870.92
Accounts Receivable:				
Sewer User Fees	378,856.97			378,856.97
Assessments	2,070,849.49			2,070,849.49
Tax Liens - enterprise	13,496.78		143.75	13,640.53
Stormwater Utility Fee			36,100.11	36,100.11
Total Assets	3,054,292.27	180,136.59	308,889.16	3,543,318.02
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	44,037.26	25,407.94	24,796.30	94,241.50
Deferred Revenue:				
Sewer User Fees	378,856.97			378,856.97
Assessments	2,070,849.49			2,070,849.49
Tax Liens	13,496.78		143.75	13,640.53
Stormwater			36,100.11	36,100.11
Total Liabilities	2,507,240.50	25,407.94	61,040.16	2,593,688.60
Fund Equity:				
Reserved for Expenditure	419,486.00	97,818.00	115,498.00	632,802.00
Reserved for Encumbrance	23,303.78	0.00	0.00	23,303.78
Retained Earnings	104,261.99	56,910.65	132,351.00	293,523.64
Total Fund Equity	547,051.77	154,728.65	247,849.00	949,629.42
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	3,054,292.27	180,136.59	308,889.16	3,543,318.02

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Fiduciary Funds
Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

	Expendable Trust Funds	Non-Expendable Trust Funds	Agency Funds	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	274,831.18	3,820,678.74
Total Assets	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	274,831.18	3,820,678.74
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	0.00		4,203.10	4,203.10
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	4,203.10	4,203.10
Fund Equity:				
Fund Balances:				
Reserved	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	270,628.08	3,816,475.64
Total Fund Equity	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	270,628.08	3,816,475.64
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	274,831.18	3,820,678.74

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Long Term Debt Group
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2023

	Land-Everett Fuller, Toppin(	Capital Projects 08	Sewer TriLakes #1 MWPAT	Sewer TriLakes #2 MWPAT	Sewer Jackson St MWPAT	Sewer Howard St. MWPAT	Energy Savings Project	Route 181 Sewer Project	BSS Roadway	Patrick Center	Capital FY19 & 20	Unfunded Vacation Leave	Unfunded Sick Leave	Totals (Memo Only)
ASSETS														
Amt to be Provided for payment of debt	30,000.00	110,000.00	120,000.00	256,478.10	465,558.24	238,661.00	875,000.00	135,000.00	740,000.00	60,000.00	4,995,000.00			8,025,697.34
Amt to be Provided for compensated absences												96,596.93	311,063.43	407,660.36
Total Assets	30,000.00	110,000.00	120,000.00	256,478.10	465,558.24	238,661.00	875,000.00	135,000.00	740,000.00	60,000.00	4,995,000.00	96,596.93	311,063.43	8,433,357.70
LIABILITIES														
Bond Indebtedness	30,000.00	110,000.00	120,000.00	256,478.10	465,558.24	238,661.00	875,000.00	135,000.00	740,000.00	60,000.00	4,995,000.00			8,025,697.34
Compensated Absences												96,596.93	311,063.43	407,660.36
Total Liabiliti	30,000.00	110,000.00	120,000.00	256,478.10	465,558.24	238,661.00	875,000.00	135,000.00	740,000.00	60,000.00	4,995,000.00	96,596.93	311,063.43	8,433,357.70

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS			ENTERPRISE FUNDS			FIDUCIARY TYPE (TRUSTS)		TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Rev.	Capital Funds	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Expendable	Non-Expendable	(Memo. Only)
Revenue:									
Taxes	31,962,874.93								31,962,874.93
State Receipts	16,467,207.00								16,467,207.00
Excise Taxes	2,527,204.44								2,527,204.44
Lieu Taxes	329,519.92								329,519.92
Licenses & Permits	241,249.64								241,249.64
Interest	317,993.89	33,380.92					92,657.91		444,032.72
Fines & Forfeits	36,566.61								36,566.61
Departmental Revenue	380,032.15	3,776,630.17		1,723,530.97	393,779.85	318,106.33			6,592,079.47
Fees	69,868.00								69,868.00
Rentals	46,618.72								46,618.72
Umass Transit	45,553.00								45,553.00
Other Miscellaneous	264,287.18	338,599.95					25.00	6,400.00	609,312.13
Grants		10,302,100.05							10,302,100.05
Performance Guarantees		3,025.78							3,025.78
Gifts		181,463.04							181,463.04
Temporary Loans									0.00
MWPAT									0.00
Bond Proceeds		154,970.00							154,970.00
Total Revenues	52,688,975.48	14,790,169.91	0.00	1,723,530.97	393,779.85	318,106.33	92,682.91	6,400.00	70,013,645.45
Expenditures:									
General Government	2,328,211.17	930,094.98							3,258,306.15
Protection of Persons & Propert	5,008,046.61	2,171,785.59							7,179,832.20
Education	32,479,915.43	5,966,149.67					5,100.00		38,451,165.10
Public Works	3,082,660.27	1,005,711.13		1,276,449.31	424,090.00	300,481.06	0.00		6,089,391.77
Human Services	1,018,686.64	240,956.74					9,329.49		1,268,972.87
Culture & Recreation	922,839.88	608,178.71							1,531,018.59
Insurance & Unclassified	6,038,676.34								6,038,676.34
Debt & Interest	958,976.01			415,694.23					1,374,670.24

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS			ENTERPRISE FUNDS			FIDUCIARY TYPE		TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Rev.	Capital Funds	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Expendable	Non-Expendable	(Memo. Only)
Expenditures (continued):									
State Assessments	1,538,555.00								1,538,555.00
Prior Year Expenditures	297,228.40			70,422.23	0.00				367,650.63
Land Purchase									0.00
Construction			1,041,097.30						1,041,097.30
Equipment			546,644.14						546,644.14
Return of Unexpended Funds									0.00
Temporary Loan		154,970.00							154,970.00
Total Expenditures	53,673,795.75	11,077,846.82	1,587,741.44	1,762,565.77	424,090.00	300,481.06	14,429.49	0.00	68,840,950.33
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(984,820.27)	3,712,323.09	(1,587,741.44)	(39,034.80)	(30,310.15)	17,625.27	78,253.42	6,400.00	1,172,695.12
Other Financing Sources (Uses):									
Operating Transfers In	1,758,621.19	43,424.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	272,000.00	0.00	2,074,045.83
Operating Transfers Out	305,424.64	1,768,621.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,074,045.83
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	1,453,196.55	(1,725,196.55)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	272,000.00	0.00	(0.00)
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Fin. Uses	468,376.28	1,987,126.54	(1,587,741.44)	(39,034.80)	(30,310.15)	17,625.27	350,253.42	6,400.00	1,172,695.12
Audit Adjustment *									0.00
Fund Balance 7-1-22	3,521,140.84	6,849,968.60	2,065,329.00	586,086.57	185,038.80	230,223.73	2,459,196.31	729,997.83	16,627,005.38
Fund Balance 6-30-23	3,989,517.12	8,837,095.14	477,587.56	547,051.77	154,728.65	247,849.00	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	17,799,700.50

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
General Fund
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Taxes	32,005,797.00	31,962,874.93	(42,922.07)
State Receipts	16,644,245.00	16,467,207.00	(177,038.00)
Excise Taxes	2,305,000.00	2,527,204.44	222,204.44
Lieu Taxes	332,000.00	329,519.92	(2,480.08)
Licenses & Permits	229,200.00	241,249.64	12,049.64
Interest	175,500.00	317,993.89	142,493.89
Fines & Forfeits	24,000.00	36,566.61	12,566.61
Departmental Revenue	348,700.00	380,032.15	31,332.15
Fees	67,000.00	69,868.00	2,868.00
Rentals	42,000.00	46,618.72	4,618.72
Umass Transit	29,000.00	45,553.00	16,553.00
Other (Misc + Mema)	38,000.00	264,287.18	226,287.18
Temporary Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	52,240,442.00	52,688,975.48	448,533.48
Expenditures:			
General Government	2,463,465.00	2,328,211.17	135,253.83
Protection of Persons & Property	5,096,686.00	5,008,046.61	88,639.39
Education	32,491,530.00	32,479,915.43	11,614.57
Public Works	3,147,382.00	3,082,660.27	64,721.73
Human Services	1,043,745.00	1,018,686.64	25,058.36
Culture & Recreation	934,008.00	922,839.88	11,168.12
Insurance & Unclassified	6,051,825.00	6,038,676.34	13,148.66
Debt & Interest	960,477.00	958,976.01	1,500.99
State Assessments	1,669,472.00	1,538,555.00	130,917.00
Prior Year Expenditures	360,807.77	297,228.40	63,579.37
Temporary Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	54,219,397.77	53,673,795.75	545,602.02
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures		(984,820.27)	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Operating Transfers In	1,086,000.00	1,758,621.19	
Operating Transfers Out	276,500.00	305,424.64	
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	809,500.00	1,453,196.55	
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Financing Uses		468,376.28	
Fund Balance 7/1/22		3,521,140.84	
Fund Balance 6/30/23		3,989,517.12	

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Special Revenue Fund
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	CPA	Highways	GRANTS			School Revolvings	Departmental	Agency Funds	Totals (Memo Only)
			Federal	State	School Lunch				
Revenues:									
Grants	117,340.00	481,106.96	5,262,080.47	1,471,605.60	1,613,618.56		1,356,348.46		10,302,100.05
Collections & Fees	332,453.37		49,453.42	0.00	83,843.22	240,318.22	2,728,744.61	341,817.33	3,776,630.17
Interest	29,184.11			703.08	410.27		2,401.83	681.63	33,380.92
Performance Guarantees								3,025.78	3,025.78
Gifts			6,635.07	7,536.56			167,291.41		181,463.04
Temporary Loans	**154,970.00**								154,970.00
Other							183,361.57	155,238.38	338,599.95
Total Revenues	633,947.48	481,106.96	5,318,168.96	1,479,845.24	1,697,872.05	240,318.22	4,438,147.88	500,763.12	14,790,169.91
Expenditures:									
General Government	220,950.32			614,106.70			57,901.02	37,136.94	930,094.98
Protection of Persons & Property			1,660,050.18	118,418.67			120,786.27	272,530.47	2,171,785.59
Education			2,030,239.06	90,703.73	1,242,465.20	265,558.41	2,186,164.15	151,019.12	5,966,149.67
Department of Public Works		414,043.07	25,442.00	535,183.29			16,792.77	14,250.00	1,005,711.13
Human Services			180,275.07	50,936.95			9,744.72	0.00	240,956.74
Culture & Recreation				54,238.74			550,439.97	3,500.00	608,178.71
Debt & Interest	154,970.00								154,970.00
Total Expenditures	375,920.32	414,043.07	3,896,006.31	1,463,588.08	1,242,465.20	265,558.41	2,941,828.90	478,436.53	11,077,846.82
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	258,027.16	67,063.89	1,422,162.65	16,257.16	455,406.85	(25,240.19)	1,496,318.98	22,326.59	3,712,323.09
Other Financing Sources (Uses):									
Operating Transfers In	10,000.00		4,597.17	4,500.00			24,327.47		43,424.64
Operating Transfers Out			514,582.00	10,000.00			1,244,039.19		1,768,621.19
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	10,000.00	0.00	(509,984.83)	(5,500.00)	0.00	0.00	(1,219,711.72)	0.00	(1,725,196.55)

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Special Revenue Fund
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	CPA	Highways	GRANTS Federal	 State	 School Lunch	School Revolvings	Departmental	Agency Funds	Totals (Memo Only)
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Financ. Uses	268,027.16	67,063.89	912,177.82	10,757.16	455,406.85	(25,240.19)	276,607.26	22,326.59	1,987,126.54
Audit Adjustments									0.00
Balance 7-1-22	1,011,878.02	(225,522.69)	1,333,875.29	(356,690.20)	386,904.54	231,568.65	4,219,653.50	248,301.49	6,849,968.60
Balance 6-30-23	1,279,905.18	(158,458.80)	2,246,053.11	(345,933.04)	842,311.39	206,328.46	4,496,260.76	270,628.08	8,837,095.14

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2023

	Sewer Upgrades	JBMS School Building Construction	Captial Projects & Equip	Totals (Memo. Only)
Revenues:				
Interest				$0.00
MWPAT				$0.00
USDA Grant				$0.00
USDA Loan				$0.00
Premium on bond				$0.00
Temporary Loans				$0.00
Bond Proceeds				$0.00
Total Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	$0.00
Expenditures:				
Construction	$7,690.00	$110,817.50	$922,589.80	$1,041,097.30
Equipment			$546,644.14	$546,644.14
Return of Unexpended Funds				$0.00
Debt issuance costs - premium			$0.00	$0.00
Principal paydown - premium				$0.00
Temporary Loans				$0.00
Total Expenditures	$7,690.00	$110,817.50	$1,469,233.94	$1,587,741.44
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	($7,690.00)	($110,817.50)	($1,469,233.94)	($1,587,741.44)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Operating Transfers In			$0.00	$0.00
Operation Transfers Out			$0.00	$0.00
Total Financing Sources (	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Excess Revenues & Other Finan. Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Finan. Uses	($7,690.00)	($110,817.50)	($1,469,233.94)	($1,587,741.44)
Fund Balance 7-1-22	$78,099.65	$0.00	$1,987,229.35	$2,065,329.00
Fund Balance 6-30-23	$70,409.65	($110,817.50)	$517,995.41	$477,587.56

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Enterprise Funds
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for the Period Ended June 30, 2023

	Wastewater	Transfer Station	Stormwater
Revenue:			
User Fees	1,586,736.66	390,971.15	318,106.33
Sewer Assessments	123,044.31		
Sewer Connections	13,750.00		
Interest	0.00		
Sale of recycling		2,808.70	
Total Revenue	1,723,530.97	393,779.85	318,106.33
Expenditures:			
Environmental	1,276,449.31	424,090.00	285,755.20
Debt & Interest	415,694.23		
Prior Year Expenditures	70,422.23		
Total Expenditures	1,762,565.77	424,090.00	285,755.20
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(39,034.80)	(30,310.15)	32,351.13
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In	0.00	0.00	0
Operating Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	0.00	0.00	0
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing (Uses)	(39,034.80)	(30,310.15)	32,351.13
Fund Balance 7/1/22	586,086.57	185,038.80	230,223.73
Fund Balance 6/30/23	547,051.77	154,728.65	247,849.00

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Non-Expendable Trust Funds
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
June 30, 2023

	Balance 7/1/2023	Additions	Transfers In/(Out)	Balance 6/30/2023
Poor Funds:				
Susan M. D. Bridgman	512,860.69			512,860.69
Whiting Street	10,000.00			10,000.00
School Funds:				
George W. Longley Music	2,000.00			2,000.00
Calvin Bridgman High School	6,000.00			6,000.00
Library Fund:				
Calvin Bridgman Library	4,000.00			4,000.00
Town Clock Fund:				
Fank Scialla Memorial	2,100.00			2,100.00
Senior Center Fund:				
Senior Center Memorial	0.00			0.00
Penson Fund:				
Pensions	0.00			0.00
Retirement Trust	0.00			0.00
Cemetery Funds:				
Perpetual Care	190,037.14	6,400.00		196,437.14
Susan M. D. Bridgman	200.00			200.00
Nellie E. Brown	1,000.00			1,000.00
Willard Stebbins	1,500.00			1,500.00
Vianna E. Somes	300.00			300.00
	729,997.83	6,400.00		736,397.83

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Expendable Trust Funds
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance For Period Ended June 30, 2023

	Balance 7/1/2022	Additions	Income	Expended	Transferred In/(Out)	Reserved	Undes Fund Balance	Balance 6/30/2023
Poor Funds:								
Susan M. D. Bridgman	$273,264.59		$19,384.99	$9,329.49			$283,320.09	$283,320.09
Whiting Street	$60,576.74		$1,752.61				$62,329.35	$62,329.35
School Funds:								
George W. Longley Music	$6,346.70		$207.29				$6,553.99	$6,553.99
Calvin Bridgman High School	$18,767.40		$615.06				$19,382.46	$19,382.46
Lillian Moffatt Scholarship	$53,359.90		$1,289.76	$5,000.00			$49,649.66	$49,649.66
C. Schott Memorial Scholarsh	$7,963.01		$197.77				$8,160.78	$8,160.78
Shumway Scholarship	$1,684.38		$41.12	$100.00			$1,625.50	$1,625.50
Library Fund:								
Calvin Bridgman Library	$3,030.35		$174.58				$3,204.93	$3,204.93
Town Clock Fund:								
Fank Scialla Memorial	$4,817.73		$171.82				$4,989.55	$4,989.55
Senior Center Fund:								
Senior Center Memorial	$82,127.09	$25.00	$2,039.90				$84,191.99	$84,191.99
Cemetery Funds:								
Perpetual Care	$69,933.90		$6,545.03				$76,478.93	$76,478.93
Susan M.D. Bridgman	$1,700.23		$47.14				$1,747.37	$1,747.37
Nellie E. Brown	$2,079.44		$76.44				$2,155.88	$2,155.88
Willard Stebbins	$2,948.07		$110.47				$3,058.54	$3,058.54
Vianna E. Somes	$3,104.70		$84.53				$3,189.23	$3,189.23
Pension Fund	$0.00						$0.00	$0.00
Retirement Trust	$0.00						$0.00	$0.00
Conservation Fund	$1,001.48		$24.86				$1,026.34	$1,026.34
OPEB Liability Trust	$187,502.79	$97,000.00	$14,101.85				$298,604.64	$298,604.64
Stabilization Fund	$1,531,033.48	$175,000.00	$42,118.47				$1,748,151.95	$1,748,151.95
Workers' Compensation Fund	$147,954.33		$3,674.22				$151,628.55	$151,628.55
	$2,459,196.31	$272,025.00	$92,657.91	$14,429.49	$0.00	$0.00	$2,809,449.73	$2,809,449.73

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts

Amortization Schedule

June 30, 2023

	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	1,219,162.59	238,881.67	1,458,044.26
2025	830,062.17	204,434.96	1,034,497.13
2026	822,488.37	170,422.83	992,911.20
2027	814,963.04	136,726.93	951,689.97
2028	537,487.17	109,395.55	646,882.72
2029	434,903.00	89,346.65	524,249.65
2030	435,507.00	70,392.55	505,899.55
2031	431,124.00	56,126.24	487,250.24
2032	395,000.00	46,915.00	441,915.00
2033	285,000.00	39,640.00	324,640.00
2034	285,000.00	33,940.00	318,940.00
2035	265,000.00	28,440.00	293,440.00
2036	265,000.00	23,140.00	288,140.00
2037	265,000.00	17,840.00	282,840.00
2038	180,000.00	13,390.00	193,390.00
2039	170,000.00	9,890.00	179,890.00
2040	130,000.00	6,825.00	136,825.00
2041	130,000.00	4,095.00	134,095.00
2042	130,000.00	1,365.00	131,365.00
	5,920,697.34	1,122,642.38	6,601,424.72

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
General Government				
10122 SELECTMEN	35,570.00	31,284.95	3,565.00	720.05
10123 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	323,612.00	323,222.42	0.00	389.58
10124 CH. 137 MILITARY LEAVE P	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10125 CABLE TV ACCESS	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	-
10128 BCTV OPERATIONS (THRU RC	68,000.00	43,338.53	334.00	24,327.47
10130 HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.	100,041.00	98,774.05	200.00	1,066.95
10131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	250.00	214.00	0.00	36.00
10132 RESERVE FUND	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
10135 ACCOUNTANT	271,620.00	262,208.62	8,100.00	1,311.38
10138 COMPUTER DIRECTOR	448,227.00	401,829.84	41,869.31	4,527.85
10141 BOARD OF ASSESSORS	384,693.00	370,496.19	8,579.77	5,617.04
10142 ASSESSORS LAW ACCOUNT	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10148 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	317,562.00	301,103.38	0.00	16,458.62
10151 LAW ACCOUNT	76,550.00	76,540.19	0.00	9.81
10161 TOWN CLERK	162,364.00	159,132.59	600.00	2,631.41
10162 ELECTION & REGISTRATION	46,353.00	45,794.45	0.00	558.55
10171 CONSERVATION COMMISSION	83,918.00	81,105.30	0.00	2,812.70
10174 PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING	2,735.00	2,734.05	0.00	0.95
10175 PLANNING BOARD	118,945.00	117,690.62	0.00	1,254.38
10176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	2,750.00	1,161.91	0.00	1,588.09
10178 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT I.C	375.00	361.47	0.00	13.53
10181 AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
10183 LAKES COMMITTEE	14,000.00	7,730.00	6,270.00	-
10185 MOBILEHOME RENT CONTROL	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
10195 PRINTING ANNUAL REPORTS	2,000.00	1,988.61	0.00	11.39
	2,463,465.00	2,328,211.17	69,518.08	41,408.28
Public Safety				
10210 POLICE DEPARTMENT	2,454,078.00	2,421,885.98	19,382.90	12,809.12
10220 FIRE DEPARTMENT	2,303,922.00	2,266,214.02	6,530.48	31,177.50
10222 HYDRANT SERVICE	28,356.00	28,356.00	0.00	-
10236 INJURED ON DUTY EXPENSES	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
10241 INSPECTION SERVICES	193,850.00	181,874.28	0.00	11,975.72
10291 CIVIL DEFENSE	1,960.00	1,855.88	0.00	104.12
10292 DOG OFFICER	111,520.00	107,860.45	0.00	3,659.55
	5,096,686.00	5,008,046.61	25,913.38	62,726.01
Education				
TOWN SCHOOLS	31,134,612.00	31,122,997.43	11,614.33	-
10350 PATHFINDER REGIONAL H.S.	1,356,918.00	1,356,918.00	0.00	-
	32,491,530.00	32,479,915	11,614	-

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
Public Works & Facilities				
10192 MAINTENANCE: BLDGS,GROUN	544,465.00	534,991.03	0.00	9,473.97
10193 LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HALL	72,800.00	72,435.33	300.23	64.44
10194 FINNERTY HOUSE	9,560.00	9,559.93	0.00	0.07
10215 E M S DEPARTMENT BUILDIN	9,125.00	8,315.37	0.00	809.63
10411 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING	36,500.00	32,449.75	4,050.25	-
10419 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION E	20,520.00	20,496.25	0.00	23.75
10420 HIGHWAY DEPT. UNIFORMS	15,850.00	12,731.22	0.00	3,118.78
10421 HIGHWAY DEPT. PERSONNEL	1,033,727.00	1,019,280.46	0.00	14,446.54
10423 SNOW AND ICE CONTROL	222,500.00	222,464.13	0.00	35.87
10424 STREET LIGHTING	40,000.00	39,781.24	0.00	218.76
10425 HIGHWAY ROAD MACHINERY	269,800.00	261,084.70	0.00	8,715.30
10429 STREETS/CONSTRUCT/MAINT	189,500.00	187,868.08	0.00	1,631.92
10430 TOWN GARAGES	40,515.00	40,155.63	0.00	359.37
10432 HIGHWAY HIRED SERVICES	246,500.00	236,909.64	9,540.82	49.54
10437 POLICE STATION	78,535.00	77,425.36	0.00	1,109.64
10438 SR. CENTER BUILDING	103,230.00	101,881.51	0.00	1,348.49
10439 RECREATION BUILDING	33,360.00	33,359.88	0.00	0.12
10440 FREEDOM CENTER	20,970.00	20,227.25	0.00	742.75
10443 FAMILY CENTER (FMRLY FRA	13,810.00	13,809.98	0.00	0.02
10445 ANIMAL CONTROL BUILDING	7,390.00	7,225.19	0.00	164.81
10457 FIRE STATION BUILDING	58,980.00	58,064.24	0.00	915.76
10466 TADGELL-MEMA SPACE	30,220.00	29,662.72	0.00	557.28
10490 CEMETERY LOT DEVELOPMENT	5,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
10491 CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	29,600.00	27,306.01	0.00	2,293.99
10635 OLD TOWN HALL EXPENSES	8,955.00	8,492.39	0.00	462.61
10650 TOWN COMMON	5,970.00	5,682.98	0.00	287.02
	3,147,382.00	3,082,660.27	13,891.30	50,830.43
Human Services				
10519 BOARD OF HEALTH	17,481.00	8,172.37	0.00	9,308.63
10522 QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT	189,167.00	189,166.66	0.00	0.34
10541 COUNCIL ON AGING	570,793.00	556,415.70	0.00	14,377.30
10543 VETERANS' SERVICES	88,919.00	88,495.00	0.00	424.00
10549 VETERANS' GRAVES	2,625.00	1,949.00	150.00	526.00
10560 VETERANS' BENEFITS	174,760.00	174,487.91	0.00	272.09
	1,043,745.00	1,018,686.64	150.00	24,908.36
Culture & Recreation				
10610 CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY	556,147.00	554,672.32	0.00	1,474.68
10630 RECREATION DEPARTMENT	343,441.00	342,498.93	0.00	942.07
10632 RECREATION - POOL ACCOUN	31,350.00	22,687.00	8,663.00	-
10639 TOWN BEACH	2,470.00	2,381.63	0.00	88.37
10651 TOWN CLOCK	600.00	600.00	0.00	-
10685 HISTORIC DISTRICT	348.00	0.00	0.00	348.00
10691 HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500.00	500.00	0.00	-

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
10692 PATRIOTIC EXERCISES	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
	935,156.00	923,340	8,663.00	3,153.12
Debt Service				
10710 RETIREMENT OF DEBT	705,000.00	705,000.00	0.00	-
10750 INTEREST	255,477.00	253,976.01	0.00	1,500.99
	960,477.00	958,976.01	0.00	1,500.99
Insurance & Unclassified				
10694 UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNT	69,250.00	68,749.68	0.00	500.32
10911 PENSIONS	4,100,480.00	4,100,480.00	0.00	-
10912 WORKERS' COMPENSATION	-	0.00	0.00	-
10913 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATIO	21,500.00	19,283.92	1,820.00	396.08
10916 FRINGE BENEFITS TWN SHAR	1,348,600.00	1,342,465.82	0.00	6,134.18
10945 GENERAL INSURANCE	510,847.00	507,196.92	0.00	3,650.08
	6,050,677.00	6,038,176	1,820	10,681
Encumbered Funds				
General Government	57,570.08	47,696.55	-	9,873.53
Protection of Persons & Prop.	41,179.24	40,905.76	-	273.48
School Department	223,734.93	198,302.57	-	25,432.36
Public Works	3,019.52	3,019.52	-	-
Insurance & Unclassified	6,950.00	6,950.00	-	-
Culture & Recreation	354.00	354.00	-	-
Prior encumbrance held	28,000.00	-	28,000.00	-
	360,807.77	297,228.40	28,000.00	35,579.37
Summary				
General Government	2,463,465.00	2,328,211.17	69,518.08	41,408.28
Protection of Persons/Property	5,096,686.00	5,008,046.61	25,913.38	62,726.01
Education	32,491,530.00	32,479,915.43	11,614.33	-
Public Works	3,147,382.00	3,082,660.27	13,891.30	50,830.43
Human Services	1,043,745.00	1,018,686.64	150.00	24,908.36
Culture & Recreation	935,156.00	923,339.88	8,663.00	3,153.12
Insurance & Unclassified	6,050,677.00	6,038,176.34	1,820.00	10,680.66
Debt & Interest	960,477.00	958,976.01	-	1,500.99
	52,189,118.00	51,838,012.35	131,570.09	195,207.85
Encumbered Funds	360,807.77	297,228.40	28,000.00	35,579.37
TOTALS	52,549,925.77	52,135,240.75	159,570.09	230,787.22

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
TOWN / TAX COLLECTOR
REPORT
7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2021				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	28,071.23
TO TAX TITLE	$	3,577.26		
COLLECTED	$	24,493.97		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	28,071.23	$	28,071.23

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2022				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	236,500.80
TO TAX TITLE	$	18,952.08		
COLLECTED	$	193,640.98		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	23,907.74		
	$	236,500.80	$	236,500.80

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2023				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	15,053,019.81
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	16,219,781.28
REFUNDED			$	62,295.99
ABATED	$	166,510.43		
COLLECTED	$	30,819,625.00		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022	$	348,961.65		
	$	31,335,097.08	$	31,335,097.08

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2024				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	15,742,599.72
COLLECTED	$	85,865.77		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	15,656,733.95		
	$	15,742,599.72	$	15,742,599.72

REAL ESTATE NEW CONN 2021				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	80.44
COLLECTED	$	80.44		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	-		
	$	80.44	$	80.44

REAL ESTATE NEW CONN 2022				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	1,500.64
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	7,211.19
COLLECTED	$	8,711.83		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	8,711.83	$	8,711.83

REAL ESTATE NEW CONN 2023				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	19,970.90
COLLECTED	$	19,970.90		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	19,970.90	$	19,970.90

CPA 2021				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	132.71
TO TAX TITLE	$	26.90		
COLLECTED	$	105.81		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	132.71	$	132.71

CPA 2022				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	1,747.93
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	92.55
TO TAX TITLE	$	97.50		
COLLECTED	$	1,629.24		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	113.74		
	$	1,840.48	$	1,840.48

FISCAL 2022 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	3,745.79
ABATED	$	129.18		
COLLECTED	$	2,356.52		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	1,260.09		
	$	3,745.79	$	3,745.79

FISCAL 2023 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	409,084.94
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	421,915.08
REFUNDED			$	675.98
COLLECTED	$	811,638.03		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	20,037.97		
	$	831,676.00	$	831,676.00

CPA 2023				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	153,291.96
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	181,079.64
REFUNDED			$	72.98
ABATED	$	2,577.74		
COLLECTED	$	329,069.44		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	2,797.40		
	$	334,444.58	$	334,444.58

CPA 2024				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	168,057.83
COLLECTED	$	733.59		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	167,324.24		
	$	168,057.83	$	168,057.83

2022 SEWER CHARGE				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	370,553.00
TOLIENS	$	45,696.80		
COLLECTED	$	324,856.20		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	-		
	$	370,553.00	$	370,553.00

2022 SEWER LIENS				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	1,680.41
COLLECTED	$	1,680.41		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	1,680.41	$	1,680.41

2023 SEWER CHARGES				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	1,583,954.35
REFUNDED			$	209.75
COLLECTED	$	1,213,061.94		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	371,102.16		
	$	1,584,164.10	$	1,584,164.10

2023 SEWER LIENS				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	50,207.48
COLLECTED	$	42,452.67		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	7,754.81		
	$	50,207.48	$	50,207.48

FISCAL 2018 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	1,237.01
COLLECTED	$	1,237.01		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	-		
	$	1,237.01	$	1,237.01

FISCAL 2019 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	1,753.96
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	1,753.96		
	$	1,753.96	$	1,753.96

FISCAL 2020 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	2,699.16
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	2,699.16		
	$	2,699.16	$	2,699.16

FISCAL 2021 PERS PROP				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	2,627.93
COLLECTED	$	184.10		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	2,443.83		
	$	2,627.93	$	2,627.93

2019 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	7,773.12
REFUNDED			$	160.42
ABATED	$	269.17		
COLLECTED	$	1,280.95		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	6,383.42		
	$	7,933.54	$	7,933.54

2020 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	11,331.36
REFUNDED			$	719.31
ABATED	$	792.34		
COLLECTED	$	3,396.78		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	7,861.55		
	$	12,050.67	$	12,050.67

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
TOWN / TAX COLLECTOR
REPORT
7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

FISCAL 2024 PERS PROP				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	485,105.91
COLLECTED	$	664.72		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	484,441.19		
	$	485,105.91	$	485,105.91

2021 STORMWATER				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	9,091.20
COLLECTED	$	2,457.60		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	6,633.60		
	$	9,091.20	$	9,091.20

2022 STORMWATER LIEN				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	1,527.83
TO TAX TITLE	$	33.17		
COLLECTED	$	1,465.86		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	28.80		
	$	1,527.83	$	1,527.83

2022 STORMWATER				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	30,801.66
REFUNDED			$	139.07
TO LIEN	$	12,442.85		
COLLECTED	$	12,934.18		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	5,563.70		
	$	30,940.73	$	30,940.73

2023 STORMWATER LIEN				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	14,382.37
COLLECTED	$	13,289.82		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	1,092.55		
	$	14,382.37	$	14,382.37

2023 STORMWATER				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	307,948.69
REFUNDED			$	751.39
ABATED	$	125.63		
COLLECTED	$	285,792.99		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	22,781.46		
	$	308,700.08	$	308,700.08

2017 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022			$	8,543.23
ABATED	$	8,428.23		
COLLECTED	$	115.00		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	-		
	$	8,543.23	$	8,543.23

2018 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	10,017.51
ABATED	$	475.00		
COLLECTED	$	657.19		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	8,885.32		
	$	10,017.51	$	10,017.51

COMSTAR				
AMBULANCE ACCOUNT				
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2022				893810.90
COMMITTED FOR COLL.				3860714.71
REFUNDED			$	2,839.79
ABATED	$	2,622,065.64		
COLLECTED	$	1,159,181.70		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	976,118.06		
	$	4,757,365.40	$	4,757,365.40

2021 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	27,133.50
REFUNDED			$	2,075.24
ABATED	$	2,189.16		
COLLECTED	$	15,885.04		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	11,134.54		
	$	29,208.74	$	29,208.74

2022 MOTOR VEHICLE				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	201,574.21
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	209,946.55
REFUNDED			$	20,822.97
ABATED	$	24,305.51		
COLLECTED	$	373,713.95		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	34,324.27		
	$	432,343.73	$	432,343.73

2023 MOTOR VEHICLE				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	2,238,076.51
REFUNDED			$	18,003.69
ABATED	$	89,529.20		
COLLECTED	$	2,009,109.94		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	157,441.06		
	$	2,256,080.20	$	2,256,080.20

2022 TRI-LAKES BETT				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	421.47
COLLECTED	$	421.47		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	421.47	$	421.47

2023 TRI-LAKES BETT				
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION			$	118,667.97
ABATED	$	664.08		
COLLECTED	$	116,021.52		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023	$	1,982.37		
	$	118,667.97	$	118,667.97

TRI LAKES ASSESSMENT				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	237,614.42
APPORTIONED FY23 RE	$	117,492.21		
COLLECTED	$	6,575.00		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	113,547.21		
	$	237,614.42	$	237,614.42

MISCELLANEOUS REC.				
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022			$	5,791.96
COMMITTED			$	28,523.60
ABATED	$	5,791.96		
COLLECTED	$	28,523.60		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023	$	-		
	$	34,315.56	$	34,315.56

TOWN AND TAX COLLECTOR			
JULY 1, 2022- JUNE 30,2023			
TOTAL COLLECTIONS		$	36,931,038.61
AMBULANCE ACCT		$	976,118.06
	TOTAL	$	37,907,156.67

TAXES,LIENS,EXCISES		$	36,436,754.84
INTEREST/FEES		$	158,951.48
SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS		$	3,375.53
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT/INT		$	331,956.76
AMBULANCE ACCT		$	976,118.06
	TOTAL	$	37,907,156.67

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
SARAH MANN

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER
JULY 1, 2022- JUNE 30,2023

CASH ON HAND 6/30/2022	$ 19,087,800.75	PAYMENTS AS AUTHORIZED	$ 79,971,934.60
RECEIPTS	$ 80,872,009.43	CASH ON HAND 6/30/2023	$ 19,987,875.58
	$ 99,959,810.18		$ 99,959,810.18

INTEREST INCOME FROM SAVINGS DEPOSITS, INVESTMENTS, BUT EXCLUDING TRUST FUNDS, SPECIAL ACCTS & STABILIZATION FUND $ 185,755.16

ACCOUNT	TRUST FUNDS BALANCE 7/1/2022	AND DEPOSITS	SPECIAL ACCOUNTS INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	TRANSFERS&W/D	BALANCE 6/30/2023
SCHOOL FUNDS					
C. BRIDGMAN (H.S.)	$ 24,767.40		$ 615.06		$ 25,382.46
GEORGE LONGLEY	$ 8,346.70		$ 207.29		$ 8,553.99
TAX SCHOLARSHIP	$ 24,864.63	$ 3,565.53	$ 113.65	$ (3,000.00)	$ 25,543.81
LILLIAN MOFFATT SCHOLARSHIP	$ 53,359.90		$ 1,289.76	$ (5,000.00)	$ 49,649.66
CAROLYN SCHOTT SCHOLARSHIP	$ 7,963.01		$ 197.77	$ -	$ 8,160.78
SHUMWAY SCHOLARSHIP	$ 1,684.38		$ 41.12	$ (100.00)	$ 1,625.50
CEMETERY FUNDS					
SUSAN BRIDGMAN	$ 1,900.23		$ 47.14		$ 1,947.37
WILLARD STEBBINS	$ 4,448.07		$ 110.47		$ 4,558.54
VIANNA SOMES	$ 3,404.70		$ 84.53		$ 3,489.23
NELLIE BROWN	$ 3,079.44		$ 76.44		$ 3,155.88
PERPETUAL CARE	$ 259,521.04	$ 7,200.00	$ 6,545.03	$ (350.00)	$ 272,916.07
POOR FUNDS					
SUSAN BRIDGMAN	$ 786,125.28	$ -	$ 19,384.99	-$9,329.49	$ 796,180.78
WHITING STREET	$ 70,576.74		$ 1,752.61		$ 72,329.35
MISC FUNDS					
F. SCIALLA (CLOCK)	$ 6,917.73		$ 171.82		$ 7,089.55
C. BRIDGMAN (LIBRARY)	$ 7,030.35		$ 174.58		$ 7,204.93
CONSERVATION	$ 1,001.48		$ 24.86		$ 1,026.34
SENIOR CENTER	$ 82,127.09	$ 50.00	$ 2,039.90		$ 84,216.99
STABILIZATION FUND	$ 1,531,033.48	$ 175,000.00	$ 42,118.47		$ 1,748,151.95
WORKERS COMPENSATION TRUST	$ 147,954.33		$ 3,674.22		$ 151,628.55
DRUG FORFEITURE ACCOUNT	$ 7,164.12	$ 147,376.94	$ 2,288.18	$ (153.55)	$ 156,675.69
CULTURAL COUNCIL	$ 27,071.26	$ 26,025.40	$ 703.08	$ (12,063.20)	$ 41,736.54
OPEB	$ 187,502.79	$ 47,000.00	$ 14,101.85		$ 248,604.64
TOTALS	**$ 3,247,844.16**	**$ 406,217.87**	**$ 95,762.82**	**$ (29,996.24)**	**$ 3,719,828.60**

FOOTNOTE: It is the policy of this office based on the request of the Town's financial audit firm that we record to the market values of the investments in our portfolio. Position and account values shown are based on trade date and do not necessarily reflect the actual current market prices or redemption value at the time of sale.

Over 87% of the Town's investments are held in fixed income products and all investments are made in compliance of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 54, Sec. 55, 55B and M.G.L. Ch. 32B, Sec 20

FUNDS BORROWED DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2022- JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE & PURPOSE	FROM	DATED	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	INTEREST RATE
FY2019 & FY2022 Capital Projects Bond	FHN Financial Capital Markets	10/28/2021	$ 5,345,000.00	10/15/2041	1.55%
State House Note #1005 Conservation Land Acq.	Easthampton Savings Bank	3/24/2023	$ 154,970.00	3/22/2024	4.30%

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
SARAH MANN
TOWN TREASURER

TOWN CLERK - 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
B-M-D CERTIFIED COPY	$830.00	$710.00	$1,450.00	$600.00	$1,120.00	$1,230.00	$1,080.00	$780.00	$1,200.00	$680.00	$1,020.00	$960.00	**$11,660.00**
MARRIAGE INTENTIONS	$60.00	$60.00	$90.00	$120.00	$90.00	$180.00	$180.00	$270.00	$180.00	$120.00	$90.00	$120.00	**$1,560.00**
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	$0.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150.00	**$450.00**
BURIAL PERMIT	$45.00	$30.00	$105.00	$30.00	$75.00	$45.00	$105.00	$30.00	$75.00	$45.00	$30.00	$75.00	**$690.00**
BUSINESS REGISTRATION	$440.00	$320.00	$680.00	$400.00	$400.00	$360.00	$760.00	$440.00	$400.00	$560.00	$280.00	$480.00	**$5,520.00**
CIVIL DISPOSITION MGL94C	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$500.00**
DOG FINES	$600.00	$2,460.00	$3,780.00	$3,943.00	$6,750.00	$800.00	$1,100.00	$1,750.00	$300.00	$1,200.00	$250.00	$0.00	**$22,933.00**
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES	$400.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$210.00	$100.00	$200.00	$200.00	$400.00	$110.00	**$1,620.00**
DOG LICENSE	$10,719.00	$5,034.00	$2,334.00	$1,194.00	$1,712.00	$510.00	$648.00	$805.00	$475.00	$387.00	$94.00	$9,860.00	**$33,772.00**
DOG GIFT FUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
DOG LICENSE POSTAGE FEE	$495.00	$227.00	$134.00	$68.00	$82.00	$20.00	$32.00	$26.00	$21.00	$16.00	$5.00	$511.00	**$1,637.00**
FUEL/GAS REGISTRATION	$0.00	$1,250.00	$525.00	$50.00	$225.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$350.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$2,400.00**
PLANNING BOARD FEE	$575.00	$475.00	$250.00	$250.00	$550.00	$0.00	$7,250.00	$125.00	$751.00	$300.00	$250.00	$1,900.00	**$12,676.00**
POLE ORDER	$30.00	$30.00	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$60.00	$0.00	$60.00	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$300.00**
RAFFLE PERMIT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00	$15.00	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00	$45.00	$30.00	$15.00	$0.00	**$165.00**
STREET LIST BOOK	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00	$75.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$150.00**
NOTARY COMMISSION FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$20.00	$0.00	$10.00	$0.00	$20.00	$10.00	**$60.00**
MISC SALES (Home Occupancy Zoning Permits)	$15.00	$15.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00	$15.00	$15.00	**$90.00**
MONTHLY TOTAL	**$14,209.00**	**$10,761.00**	**$9,408.00**	**$6,685.00**	**$11,019.00**	**$3,295.00**	**$11,945.00**	**$4,431.00**	**$4,172.00**	**$3,598.00**	**$2,469.00**	**$14,191.00**	**$96,183.00**

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK
2023 VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

Place	Male	Female
Belchertown	1	1
Greenfield	1	1
Northampton	11	16
Springfield	38	33
Winchester	1	1
Worcester	0	2
Non-Birthing Hospital	0	0
	52	54

Marriages:

	Male	Female
Belchertown Resident	33	35
Non-Resident	14	18

Married in Belchertown: 23 Married Out-of-Town: 27

Deaths:

	Male	Female
Belchertown Resident	65	62
Non-Resident	2	1

Place of Death:

Amherst	5
Belchertown	45
Boston	1
East Longmeadow	1
Fitchburg	1
Hadley	1
Holyoke	1
Marlborough	1
Northampton	6
Palmer	15
Southwick	1
South Hadley	1
Springfield	42
West Brookfield	4
Westfield	1
Wilbraham	3
Worcester	1

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
BELCHERTOWN
May 15, 2023

OFFICE	NAME	PRECINCT	A	B	C	D	TOTAL
Select Board	Lesa J. Lessard Pearson		224	199	186	190	**799**
3 years	W. Daniel Fitzpatrick		108	71	81	76	**336**
Vote for one	Sundry Write-ins		8	4	7	2	**21**
	Blanks		24	36	43	13	**116**
		Total	364	310	317	281	**1272**
School Committee	Heidi Gutekenst		257	203	195	206	**861**
3 years	Matthew S. Jackson		146	140	165	84	**535**
Vote for two	Lamikco Magee		224	175	157	198	**754**
	Sundry Write-ins		10	7	4	1	**22**
	Blanks		91	95	113	73	**372**
		Total	728	620	634	562	**2544**
Planning Board	Bjorn Markeson		81	69	49	95	**294**
5 years	Sundry Write-ins		6	5	5	10	**26**
Vote for one	Blnks		277	236	263	176	**952**
		Total	364	310	317	281	**1272**
Moderator	Benjamin Farrell		91	74	56	100	**321**
3 years	Sundry Write-ins		10	20	9	13	**52**
Vote for one	Blanks		263	216	252	168	**899**
		Total	364	310	317	281	**1272**
Board of Assessors	Loring M. Caney, Jr.		56	39	33	63	**191**
3 years	Sundry Write-ins		6	17	8	3	**34**
Vote for one	Blanks		302	254	276	215	**1047**
		Total	364	310	317	281	**1272**
Board of Health	Kenneth E. Elstein		260	204	201	209	**874**
3 years	David N. Gottsegen		260	199	208	187	**854**
Vote for two	Sundry Write-ins		12	6	3	11	**32**
	Blanks		196	211	222	155	**784**
		Total	728	620	634	562	**2544**
Belchertown Registered Voters		**PRECINCT**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**TOTAL**
		Democrat	686	626	627	803	**2742**
		Republican	338	401	411	231	**1381**
		Libertarian	3	18	9	10	**40**
		Unenrolled	1866	1954	1864	1805	**7489**
		Other	35	23	23	24	**105**
		Total	2928	3022	2934	2873	**11757**
	Votes Cast on 5/15/2023						
	10.82%						
		PRECINCT	A	B	C	D	TOTAL
			364	310	317	281	**1272**
Attest:							
Theresa A. Camerlin							
Town Clerk							

Actions taken at the Special Town Meeting held May 8, 2023 at the Belchertown High School Auditorium
FY23
Moderator – Amanda Halperin
Meeting called to order at 7:03pm
Registered voters present - 240 (Quorum requires 75)
The return of the warrant was read.
An explanation of the new clicker voting system was presented by Meridia Company along with a sample question to test the clickers.

Article 1 Voted to transfer the sums of money as outlined below:

TRANSFER FROM	AMOUNT	TO
Police Department Salary	113,000	Fire Department Wage
Old Town Hall	1,000	Veterans' Agent Expense
Veterans' Benefits	35,000	Town Administrator Salary
Recreation Wage	1,600	Medicare-Town Share
IT Wage	5,000	Highway Wage
Conservation Salary	19,000	Police Station
Maintenance Dept. Expense	13,000	Road Machinery
Police Department Salary	12,000	Road Machinery
Snow Removal	19,000	Road Machinery
Health Insurance-Town Share	24,000	Senior Center
Library Salary	8,281	HR Director Salary
EMS Building	1,500	HR Director Salary
Town Clerk Wage	4,840	HR Director Salary
Town Clerk Wage	84	Treasurer Collector Wage
Town Administrator Wage	5,700	Highway Wage
IOD	5,000	Highway Wage
Workers Comp	5,000	Highway Wage
Senior Center Wage	12,000	Treasurer Collector Salary
Snow Removal	500	Treasurer Collector Salary
Health Insurance-Town Share	5,000	Law Account
Veterans' Benefits	5,000	Law Account
ACO Building	4,000	Fire Station
Tadgell Building	2,000	Fire Station
Inspection Services Wage	2,000	Fire Station
Assessors Wage	1,000	Unclassified
Police Department Wage	2,000	Unclassified
Town Clerk Salary	2,000	Unclassified
Town Clerk Salary	200	Hydrant Services
Conservation Salary	577	Town Accountant Wage
Overlay Surplus	21,429	FD Tanker Grant Match
Overlay Surplus	9,980	Select Board Expense
Overlay Surplus	11,000	Assessors Expense
Overlay Surplus	50,000	OPEB
Overlay Surplus	5,000	Select Board Expense
Overlay Surplus	3,750	IRS Fee
Overlay Surplus	10,000	Select Board Expense

(Finance Committee voted 0-4-0)
(Vote – Majority Required – Majority yes)

Article 2 Voted to take no action on this article (transfer of money for unpaid bills of prior year)
(Vote – Majority Required – Majority yes)

Voted to dissolve meeting at 7:42pm
(Vote – Majority Required – Majority yes)

Attest:
Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2023
FY 23

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAIL FUNDS
1	Fire Department Wage	$113,000.00					$113,000 from Police Department Salary
	Veteran's Agent Expense	$1,000.00					$1,000 from Old Town Hall
	Town Administrator Salary	$35,000.00					$35,000 from Veterans' Benefits
	Medicare-Town Share	$1,600.00					$1,600 from Recreation Wage
	Highway Wage	$5,000.00					$5,000 from IT Wage
	Police Station	$19,000.00					$19,000 from Conservation Salary
	Road Machinery	$13,000.00					$13,000 from Maintenance Dept. Expense
	Road Machinery	$12,000.00					$12,000 from Police Department Salary
	Road Machinery	$19,000.00					$19,000 from Snow Removal
	Senior Center	$24,000.00					$24,000 from Health Insurance - Town Share
	HR Director Salary	$8,281.00					$8,281 from Library Salary
	HR Director Salary	$1,500.00					$1,500 from EMS Building
	HR Director Salary	$4,840.00					$4,840 from Town Clerk Wage
	Treasurer Collector Wage	$84.00					$84 from Town Clerk Wage
	Highway Wage	$5,700.00					$5,700 from Town Administrator Wage
	Highway Wage	$5,000.00					$5,000 from IOD
	Highway Wage	$5,000.00					$5,000 from Workers Comp
	Treasurer Collector Salary	$12,000.00					$12,000 from Senior Center Wage
	Treasurer Collector Salary	$500.00					$500 from Snow Removal
	Law Account	$5,000.00					$5,000 from Health Insurance-Town Share
	Law Account	$5,000.00					$5,000 from Veterans' Benefits
	Fire Station	$4,000.00					$4,000 from ACO Building
	Fire Station	$2,000.00					$2,000 from Tadgell Building
	Fire Station	$2,000.00					$2,000 from Inspection Services Wage
	Unclassified	$1,000.00					$1,000 from Assessors Wage
	Unclassified	$2,000.00					$2,000 from Police Department Wage
	Unclassified	$2,000.00					$2,000 from Town Clerk Salary
	Hydrant Services	$200.00					$200 from Town Clerk Salary
	Town Accountant Wage	$577.00					$577 from Conservation Salary
	FD Tanker Grant Match	$21,429.00					$21,429 from Overlay Surplus
	Select Board Expense	$9,980.00					$9,980 from Overlay Surplus
	Assessors Expense	$11,000.00					$11,000 from Overlay Surplus
	OPEB	$50,000.00					$50,000 from Overlay Surplus
	Select Board Expense	$5,000.00					$5,000 from Overlay Surplus
	IRS Fee	$3,750.00					$3,750 from Overlay Surplus
	Select Board Expense	$10,000.00					$10,000 from Overlay Surplus
Article 2	none						
TOTAL		**$420,441.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$420,441.00**

Attest:

Theresa A. Camerlin, Town Clerk

Actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting held May 8, 2023 at the Belchertown High School Auditorium.
FY 24
Moderator – Amanda Halperin
Meeting called to order at 7:45pm
Registered voters present - 240 (Quorum requires 75)

Ms. Charly Oliva, Veteran's Agent, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem was sung by Mr. Thomas Stockton.

Due to the lack of yearly awards being given since 2019, due to Covid, this year all Town of Belchertown Employees were asked to stand and be recognized as Employees of the year, by Select Board Member Margaret Louraine.

Due to the lack of yearly awards being given since 2019, due to Covid, this year all volunteers in the community were asked to stand and be recognized as Volunteers of the year, by Select Board Member, Jennifer Turner.

Due to the lack of yearly awards being given since 2019, due to Covid, this year all Town employees with over 10 years of service and all Volunteers with over 10 years of service were asked to stand and be recognized as Citizens of the year by Select Board Chair, James Barry.

The Home Town Hero award, military category, was presented to Peter Thorpe. A plaque was presented by Senator Jacob Oliveira, Representative Aaron Saunders and Belchertown Veteran's Agent, Charly Oliva.

Ronald Aponte, Vice Chair of the Select Board, presented The Gary Whitlock award to retiring Town Administrator, Gary Brougham, after 29 years of service to the Town.

Return of the warrant was read.

The new electronic clicker voting system was explained by a representative from Meridia Company. A sample question was used to test the system.

Motion made, seconded and declared passed to waive the reading of the warrant articles.

Article 1 Voted to elect Paul Anziano and Linda Tsoumas as Almoners of the Whiting Street and Mrs. Susan M.D. Bridgman Funds, each for one year.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 2 Voted to accept the reports of the officers of the Town with the exception of the Finance Committee.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 3 Voted to authorize the Assessors and the Board of Health members to appoint themselves to work in their various departments for the ensuing fiscal year, at the following hourly rates:

Assessors	$17.50
Board of Health Members	$7.25

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 4 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $100.00 to be used by the Assessors for legal counsel in resolving tax cases.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 5 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $30,000.00 to the Reserve Fund for use by the Finance Committee.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 6 Voted to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Improvement Program or any other state grant program for use on approved town ways.

(Vote - Majority required – Unanimous declared)

Article 7 Voted to appropriate from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account the sum of $5,000.00 to the Cemetery Lot Development Account.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 8 Voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided for by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, as shown in the Finance Committee's report; to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury for departmental and incidental expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year; and that the various major categories of the budget as contained in the Finance Committee's report be considered separately and acted upon; and further that these sums of money granted and appropriated for the several specific purposes therein designated, be expended only for those purposes as specifically designated and under the direction of the respective officers, boards and committees of the Town.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,376,376.00 for General Government, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
After much discussion, motion made and seconded to move the question.
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

(Main Motion Vote – Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,169,789.00 and appropriate the sum of $1,240,000.00 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account for a total appropriation of $5,409,789.00 for Public Safety, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $32,597,863.00 for the Town School Department, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-1)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,435,064.00 for the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,230,896.00 for DPW-Highways, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to appropriate from Landfill receipts the sum of $349,232.00 and appropriate from Landfill Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $97,818.00 for a total appropriation of $447,050.00 to the Landfill Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to appropriate from Sewer Enterprise receipts the sum of $1,637,071.00 and appropriate from Sewer Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $419,486.00, for a total appropriation of $2,056,557.00, to the Sewer Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to appropriate from Stormwater Utility Enterprise receipts the sum of $222,152.00, and appropriate from Stormwater Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $115,498.00 for a total appropriation of $337,650.00 to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $977,225.00 for the Human Services Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $971,029.00 for Culture and Recreation Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $963,905.00 for DPW Buildings and Grounds Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,897,002.00, and appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $1,385,358.00, for a total appropriation of $6,282,360.00 to the Pensions and Insurance Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $79,098.00 to the Unclassified Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $954,650.00 to the Interest and Debt Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 9 Voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $200,000.00 to the Stabilization Fund.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 10 Voted to amend the Code of the Town of Belchertown, Chapter 91, Personnel, as previously amended, in the following prescribed manner:

- **In Chapter *91, Section 6-B*, Benefits:**

- **ADD (14) – Wastewater Weekend Stipend**
  A Wastewater Treatment Plant employee who is required to work the weekend to provide coverage will be compensated a stipend of $75 for each weekend worked.

- **In Chapter *91, Attachment 1*, Appendix A, Town Classification-Compensation Plan:**
  - **Replace** Management, Administrative or Professional Exempt chart with new chart, including two new positions shown in **bold**, as follows:

Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Director of Public Works	$99,692 - $127,263
Fire Department Deputy Chief	**$86,995 - $100,962**
Police Lieutenant	$86,995 - $100,962
Director of Information Technology	$83,078 - $106,052
Town Planner	$83,078 - $106,052
Town Treasurer-Collector	$79,121 - $101,003
Town Accountant	$79,121 - $101,003
Building Commissioner	$79,121 - $101,003
Director of Assessments	$79,121 - $101,003
Human Resource Director	$79,121 - $101,003
Conservation Administrator	$76,078 - $97,118
Council on Aging Executive Director	$76,078 - $97,118
Director of Parks & Recreation	$76,078 - $97,118
Veterans' Agent	$73,152 - $93,382
BCTV Executive Director	**$70,000 - $80,000**

- **In Chapter 91, *Attachment 2*, Appendix B – Weekly Salary Schedule for Classified Employees:**
  - **Remove** the compensation chart effective July 1, 2022 to end June 30, 2023 and insert the following chart:

Effective July 1, 2023 to end June 30, 2024

Grade	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	12.97	13.33	13.70	14.06	14.45	14.87	15.25	15.67	16.12	16.56
2	16.85	17.32	17.81	18.30	18.80	19.31	19.85	20.38	20.95	21.54
3	19.39	19.93	20.48	21.04	21.62	22.21	22.82	23.45	24.09	24.74
4	22.28	22.90	23.53	24.17	24.86	25.54	26.25	26.96	27.70	28.45
5	24.54	25.19	25.90	26.61	27.33	28.09	28.87	29.65	30.50	31.32
6	26.99	27.71	28.47	29.28	30.08	30.89	31.75	32.63	33.51	34.44
7	29.68	30.51	31.33	32.20	33.07	33.99	34.93	35.88	36.87	37.90
8	30.87	31.72	32.58	33.47	34.41	35.35	36.32	37.33	38.35	39.41
9	32.11	33.00	33.88	34.83	35.77	36.77	37.78	38.81	39.88	40.99
10	34.35	35.28	36.27	37.28	38.27	39.34	40.43	41.54	42.69	43.85

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 11 Voted to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation creating the position of Town Manager, all as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the

Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments,

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF TOWN MANAGER IN THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a town manager in the town of Belchertown. The town manager shall be appointed by the Select Board for a term of not more than 3 years. The town manager shall be a person of demonstrated ability with administrative experience in public management or business administration and who is qualified by reason of education and experience.

The town manager shall devote full time to the duties of the office and shall not engage in any other business or occupation during the term of the town manager's employment unless approved by the Select Board in advance. The town manager shall not hold elective office in the town during the town manager's tenure as town manager; provided, however, that the Select Board may appoint the town manager to any non-elective office or position consistent with the responsibilities of the town manager and such an office or position shall be part of the position of town manager.

The Select Board shall annually set the compensation of the town manager in an amount of not more than that appropriated by town meeting for such purposes. Additional terms and conditions of employment may be established by contract between the Select Board and the town manager in accordance with section 108N of chapter 41 of the General Laws.

(b) The town manager of the town of Belchertown shall be the chief administrative officer of the town, responsible to the Select Board for the effective management of all town affairs placed in the town manager's charge by this act, by-law, the Select Board or town meeting. The town manager shall be responsible for the implementation of town policies established by the Select Board and shall be responsible for such duties as may be established by by-law or delegation from the select board. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the powers and duties of the town manager shall include, but not be limited to the following personnel management duties, financial management duties and administrative management duties:

(c) Personnel management duties shall include:

(i) appointing and removing members of multiple-member bodies, department heads, officers, subordinates and employees in accordance with policies and procedures established by the select board, and/or in applicable collective bargaining agreements, by-laws of the town or other applicable laws, except that the town manager shall not appoint employees of the school committee, the police chief, the fire chief and the library director; provided, however, that the town manager shall, prior to appointing a department head subject to the policy direction of a multiple-member body, consult with the multiple-member body; provided further, that the appointment or removal of a department head shall not take effect unless and until the appointment is ratified and confirmed by the select board and all other appointments and removals shall take effect upon notice to the select board; and provided further, that all appointments and removals made by a temporary or acting town manager pursuant to subsection (c) shall be approved by the Select Board;

(ii) managing, supervising and being responsible for the efficient and coordinated administration of all town functions under the town manager's control by this act, by-law, town meeting or the Select Board, including all appointed officers and their respective departments, coordinating the activities of all town agencies, including those under the control of other officers and multiple-member bodies elected by the voters, and reasonably requiring persons so-elected or appointed, or their representatives, to meet with the town manager for such purposes or, at the town manager's request, to provide such information as may be necessary and appropriate to have available for purposes of such coordination;

(iii) inquiring or making an investigation, at any time, into the conduct of office or performance of duties of any officer or employee, department, board, commission or other town agency

(iv) being responsible for the town personnel system including, but not limited to, administering personnel policies and practices, rules and regulations, personnel by-laws and collective bargaining agreements. The Select Board shall be responsible for the formulation and promulgation of policy directives and guidelines to be followed by all town employees, but the Select Board and its members shall deal with officers and employees serving under the Town Manager, solely through the Town Manager and neither the Select Board nor any member of said board shall give orders or directions to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately;

(v) fixing the compensation of all appointed officers and employees within the limits established by town meeting;

(vi) negotiating collective bargaining agreements and all other contracts involving any subject within the jurisdiction of the office of the town manager, including contracts with town employees, except employees of the school department, that involve wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment; provided, however, that all such contracts shall be subject to ratification and execution by the Select Board;

(d) Financial management duties shall include:

(i) assuring that full and complete records of the financial and administrative activities of the town are kept and rendering, as often as may be required by the Select Board, a full report of all town administrative operations during the period reported on;

(ii) signing warrants for payment prepared and signed by the town accountant in accordance with section 56 of chapter 41 of the General Laws; provided, however, that 1 select person designated by vote of the Select Board shall approve all warrants for payment in the absence of the town manager or if an acting or interim town manager has been appointed in accordance with subsection (f);

(iii) The town manager shall be responsible for controlling all appropriated budget expenditures, which includes the power to approve or reject all warrants, including payroll, for the payment of town funds prepared by the town accountant in accordance with section 56 of chapter 41 of the General Laws.

(iv) The town manager shall be responsible for the preparation of the proposed operating and capital improvement budgets to be approved by the select board and included in the annual town meeting warrant. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the select board, by the date established by the board. The proposed budget shall describe all actual or estimated revenue from all sources, and all actual or proposed expenditures, including debt service, for the previous, current, and ensuing fiscal years, and such other information as the select board may require.

(v) To assist the town manager in preparing the proposed annual budget of revenue and expenditures, all boards, officers, and committees of the town, including the school committee, shall furnish all relevant information in their possession and submit to the town manager, in writing, in such form as the town manager shall establish, a detailed estimate of the appropriations required and available funds.

(e) Administrative management duties shall include:

(i) attending all regular and special meetings of the Select Board unless excused in advance by the chair of the Select Board; provided, however, that the town manager shall have a voice, but shall not have a vote, in all of the proceedings of the Select Board;

(ii) keeping the Select Board fully advised concerning the status of all matters referred by the Select Board to the town manager and as to the needs of the town and recommending to the Select Board and other elected and appointed town officers and agencies such measures requiring action by them or town meeting as the town manager may deem necessary or desirable;

(iii) attending all town meetings and, as authorized by the moderator, answering questions that relate to matters over which the town manager exercises supervision;

(iv) having full jurisdiction over the rental and use of all town facilities and property, except property under the control of the school committee, conservation commission and board of library trustees; provided, however, that the town manager shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all town buildings and facilities placed under the town manager's control by this act, by-law, vote of town meeting or otherwise;

(v) establishing and maintaining a full and complete inventory of all real and personal property of the town;

(vi) serving as the chief procurement officer for purposes of chapter 30B of the General Laws and being responsible for purchasing all services, supplies, material and equipment for all departments and activities of the town, including execution of contracts therefor; provided, however, that the town manager shall examine, or cause to be examined, the quantity, quality and condition of all supplies, material and equipment delivered to or received by any town agency; provided further, that the town manager shall be responsible for the disposal of all supplies, material and equipment that have been declared surplus by any town agency; provided further, that all contracts for purchase of services, supplies, material and equipment negotiated by a temporary or acting town manager pursuant to subsection (c) shall be approved by the Select Board;

(vii) ensuring that all general laws and any special laws applicable to the town, town by-laws and other votes of town meeting and the Select Board that require enforcement by the town manager or officers subject to the direction and supervision of the town manager are faithfully executed, performed or otherwise carried out;

(viii) acting as the liaison with and representing the Select Board before state, federal and regional authorities;

(ix) delegating to any subordinate officer or employee authority to exercise any power or perform any function or duty that is assigned to the office of the town manager, except signing warrants for payment; provided, however, that all acts performed under any such delegation shall be acts of the town manager; and

(x) performing any other duties as are required to be performed by the town manager by town by-laws, town meeting, the Select Board or otherwise.

(f)(1) By letter filed with the town clerk and Select Board of the town of Belchertown, the town manager shall designate a qualified town administrative officer or employee as the acting town manager to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the town manager during a temporary absence or disability; provided, however, that the designation shall be for not more than 10 business days. Following the expiration of 10 business days, the Select Board may revoke the designation and appoint another qualified town administrative officer or employee to serve as the temporary town manager until the town manager returns. The powers of an acting town manager shall be limited to matters not permitting of delay and shall include authority to make temporary, emergency appointments or designations to town office or employment but not to make a permanent appointment or designation.

(2) A vacancy in the office of town manager shall be filled as soon as possible by the Select Board; provided, however, that pending a permanent appointment, the Select Board shall appoint a qualified town administrative officer or employee as the interim town manager to perform the duties of the town manager on an acting basis. Such appointment shall be for not more than 6 months; provided, however, that the Select Board may renew the appointment once for not more than an additional 6 months. Compensation for the interim town manager shall be set by the Select Board within the appropriation made by town meeting for the office of town manager.

(g) The Select Board may terminate, remove or suspend the town manager; provided, however, that further conditions applicable to termination, removal and suspension may be addressed by the terms of a contract between the Select Board and the town manager.

SECTION 2. The office of the town administrator of the town of Belchertown shall be abolished upon the effective date of this act and the office of the town manager shall in all respects be its lawful successor. The town administrator holding office as of the effective date of this act shall become the first town manager of the town and shall serve for a period of time equivalent to the remainder of the town administrator's appointed term or until the position is otherwise vacated, whichever occurs first. Thereafter, a town manager shall be appointed by the Select Board in accordance with subsection (a) of section 1; provided, however, that a person's previous service as the town administrator shall not disqualify the person from being appointed as the town manager pursuant to this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 12 Voted to take no action to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds in the treasury a sum of money to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 13 Voted to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of $73,000.00 to be used for operations of the Belchertown Community Channel, and anything incidental or related thereto, for the ensuing fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 14 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,500.00 to the Belchertown Cultural Council expense account to be used for the purpose of providing engaging arts and cultural programming for the Belchertown community.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 5-0-0)
(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 15 Voted to establish a special purpose Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund in accordance with G.L. c. 40, §5B; and further accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said G.L. c. 40, §5B; and pursuant to such acceptance to dedicate 100 percent of the Town's share of the National Opioid Settlement funds, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 16 Voted to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement for the lease and purchase and to equip (1) International Ambulance for use by the Belchertown Fire Department pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §21C for a period in excess of three years, and to fund the first year payment of such agreement with the amount appropriated in paragraph 3 of Article 8 of the Town Budget as voted pursuant to Article 8 at this May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 17 Voted to authorize the School Department to enter into a lease purchase agreement to lease and purchase and to equip a School Department truck pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 §21C for a period in excess of three years, and to fund the first year payment of such agreement with the amount appropriated in paragraph 4 of Article 8 of the Town Budget as voted pursuant to Article 8 at this May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 18 Voted to authorize the Select Board to enter into one or more lease purchase agreements to lease and purchase and to equip Department of Public Works' vehicles and other equipment pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §21C for a period in excess of three years, and to fund the first year payment of such agreements with the amount appropriated in paragraphs 6, 8, and 12 of Article 8 of the Town Budget as voted pursuant to Article 8 at this May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 19 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as "High Meadow Farms Subdivision" (aka: High Bluff Road and Sunnycrest Lane), and to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said roadway for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto, "High Meadow Farms Subdivision "(aka: High Bluff Road and Sunnycrest Lane) as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and all as shown on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision of Land, High Meadow Farms, Franklin Street, Belchertown, MA (Hampshire County)", and filed with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 204, Pages 7 through 16 inclusive and "As-Built Plan" dated November 9, 2022. revised April 3, 2023 and recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds on April 6, 2023, in Plan 253, Book 116 for the Town of Belchertown, prepared by Heritage Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc. and on file with the Town Clerk.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 20 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as "Concord Way", and to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said roadway for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto, as heretofore laid out by the Select Board as shown on a plan of land entitled "Street Acceptance Plan" and "As-Built Plan & Profile (Amherst Hills)" dated January 6, 2023, prepared by Berkshire Design Group, and on file with the Town Clerk.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 21 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as "Hunters Ridge Phase III – Old Sawmill Road", as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan" dated April 11, 2022, prepared by SVE Associates, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in "Hunters Ridge Phase III – Old Sawmill Road" for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 22 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as "Trillium Way – Meadowview Subdivision", as heretofore laid out by the Select Board as shown on a plane of land entitled "Subdivision As-Built Plan of Land" with final revised date of June 22, 2022, prepared by R.L Cook Land Surveyors & Consultants, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in "Trillium Way – Meadowview Subdivision" for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 23 Voted to amend the zoning bylaw, Chapter 145 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown, by amending Chapter 145, Article II, §145-5, and the Zoning Map established thereunder, to eliminate the LI-Light Industrial zone, and to change the zoning of the following parcels from LI-Light Industrial to BNC-Business Neighborhood Center: 243-178.03, 243-178.04, 243-178.05, 243-178.06, 243-178.07, 243-178.08, and 243-178.09; and to change the following parcels from B2–General Business to BNC-Business Neighborhood Center: 243-155, 243-155.01, 243-157, 243-158, 243-159, and 243-160; and to change the zoning of parcel 243-177 in its entirety from B2-General Business and VR-Village Residential to BNC-Business Neighborhood Center; and to change the zoning of the following parcels from B1-Limited Business to BNC-Business Neighborhood Center: 243-162, and 243-154; and to change the zoning of the following parcels from LI-Light Industrial to B2–General Business: 243-148, and 243-149; and to change the zoning of the following parcel from LI-Light Industrial to VR-Village Residential: 243-147, all of said parcels being identified by their Assessors' Parcel ID; and to delete entirely the Light Industrial zone and all references to the Light Industrial zone within this chapter, including specifically §145-11, Schedule of Use Regulations, as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 24 Voted to amend Chapter 145, Article II, §145-5, and the Zoning Map established thereunder, to change the zoning of the parcel at 115 North Main Street, identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 238-180, from VR-Village Residential to B1-Limited Business, as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 25 Voted to amend Chapter 145, Article II, §145-5, and the Zoning Map established thereunder, to change the zoning of the parcel at 50 Federal Street identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 238-62, and the parcel along Pelham Road identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 238-63, from AG-B-Rural Residential to MDR – Multiple Dwelling Residential, as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 26 Voted to amend the zoning bylaw, Chapter 145 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown, as follows:

1. Amend Article II, §145-5, and the Zoning Map established thereunder, to create an Agricultural Value-Added District comprised of the parcel identified on a lot division plan by Sherman and Frydryk, LLC, dated 5/09/22 as Lot 9-148J;

2. Amend Article II, §145-3, to add the following:

   AV-A Agricultural Value- Added

3. Amend Article III, §145-11, Schedule of Use Regulations, to add a column *AV-A* to read in each row: "See §145-88 for AV-A Uses."

4. Add a new *Article XV, Agricultural Value-Added District*, with the following text:

ARTICLE XV
Agricultural Value-Added District

§ 145-82. Purpose.
The Agricultural Value-Added District is intended to support and promote local agricultural activity and the retention of active farmland, and farmland of local importance as defined by the US Natural Resource Conservation Service, by providing economic and educational opportunities to add commercial value to local agricultural products. Its design is to provide a base of economic activity and an aesthetic that reflects the town's agricultural heritage, and to provide supportive infrastructure for new agricultural technologies.

Lot dimensions in the AV-A District may vary from those required in other districts pursuant to Article V of this chapter. This is to accommodate current development technologies in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, storm water management, transportation, and building design and construction.

(A) The purposes of the Agricultural Value-Added District are:
  (1) To reinforce the town's Right to Farm bylaw, chapter 38 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown.
  (2) To provide opportunities for farmers seeking to process products they grow;
  (3) To provide opportunities for marketing assistance and education;
  (4) To promote the retention of farmland in Belchertown;
  (5) To assist in developing a locally-grown food supply;
  (6) To reduce local food insecurity;
  (7) To attract more people to the agricultural economy;
  (8) To allow the relatively intensive use of land in an alternative pattern of development while maintaining existing character and by which the following benefits and objectives are likely to be attained, as described in Subsection B.

(B) Benefits and objectives of the Agricultural Value-Added District:
  (1) Better marketing, employment, and educational opportunities for agricultural producers in Belchertown.
  (2) More local economic activity that is agriculturally based.
  (3) Increased financial feasibility for landowners to keep farmland in agriculture by support of the agricultural sector.
  (4) Increased food security by providing local people with locally grown food.
  (5) Retention and celebration of community character and history through continuation of Belchertown's history of local agricultural prominence.

§ 145-83. Definitions.

Value-added Agricultural Processing:
Treatment that changes the physical state or form of a farm product in order to increase its market value, including such processes as canning, milling, grinding, freezing, heating, and fermenting.

Basic Agricultural Processing:
Processing necessary to store and market farm products. Basic processing does not include treatment that changes the form of the product, but does include treatment such as cutting, drying, freezing or cold storing, and packaging.

Agricultural Manufacturing:
Turning farm products into commercial products through activities such as baking, butchering, brewing, fermenting, and pickling, whether for wholesale or retail.

Farm Worker Housing:
The use of a building or portion of a building designed and used exclusively for the housing of farm workers who actively and currently farm on land associated with that housing for at least six months out of the year. Farm worker housing may be used to accommodate people directly connected to one of the farm worker residents. This is not to be used for short-term rentals or permanent residency.

§ 145-84. Development method.
Site plan approval by the Planning Board is required for any new construction, the addition of over 400 square feet to a structure, or change in use of an existing structure in the Agricultural Value-Added District. The Planning Board may require a deposit of money in escrow to guarantee performance of the development and cover municipal expenses in case of non-performance or any public necessity on the site.

§ 145-85. Administration.

A. To facilitate timely processing, promote better communication and avoid misunderstanding, applicants are encouraged to submit conceptual materials for informal review by the Planning Board prior to formal application for site plan approval.

B. Site plan approval submission requirements. Each Agricultural Value-Added District site plan approval application and plan shall provide the following information:

(1) The location and specific boundaries of the project parcel or parcels.

(2) Signatures of authorized representatives of each entity with ownership interest and each applicant or applicants' agent involved in the project.

(3) Written approval from the appropriate governing body certifying the ability to connect to a public sewage system and a public water supply; or, approval from the Belchertown Board of Health and other regulating entities to provide either or both private sewerage and water supply.

(4) Copies of all proposed covenants, easements, agreements and other restrictions the applicant proposes, in draft guideline form, not in final legal form.

(5) Demonstration that the proposed development is consistent with this article.

(6) Any and all other information the Planning Board may require to assist in determining whether the project site plan meets the objectives and standards as set forth in this article.

C. Review and approval process.

(1) The review, notice, and public hearing process for site plan approval in the Agricultural Value-Added District shall be conducted in the same manner as would those of a special permit. After notice and public hearing in accordance with MGL c. 40A, § 9, as amended, the Planning Board shall, after due consideration of the reports and recommendations of the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Select Board, Director of Public Works, Town Engineer, Belchertown Water District, and any other technical reviewing authority, approve a site plan, provided that the conditions and standards of this article have been adequately met. The Planning Board may impose reasonable conditions on its approval to ensure compliance with the conditions and standards of this article. The Planning Board's decision may be appealed pursuant to G.L. c.40A, §17.

(2) Site plan approval granted under this article shall lapse within 24 months from the date the site plan approval decision is filed with the Town Clerk if construction has not begun or is not continuing to proceed, or, where construction is not required, if substantial use of the property in accordance with the site approval has not commenced, except for a good cause shown with an extension approved by the Planning Board. The applicant must apply for an extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the site plan approval.

(3) Strict compliance with any zoning bylaw governing any individual aspect of a site plan under this article may be waived by the Planning Board where such action is not detrimental to the public good. In such cases, any waiver on a site plan with approval from the Planning Board supersedes the individual bylaw governing the waiver. If the applicant requests a waiver, it is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate how the proposed waiver is not detrimental to the public good. The Planning Board reserves the right to waive a requirement or requirements when the Board deems it appropriate to do so, even if the applicant does not request a waiver.

D. Fees.

(1) Same as the site plan fee that is current at the time of application.

(2) The applicant shall pay all costs incurred by the Planning Board and for all consultants used by the Planning Board in considering the application for site plan approval, including but not limited to engineering, design, and legal services. The Planning Board may require a deposit of funds prior to incurring such costs, which funds shall be deposited and expended pursuant to MGL c.44, § 53G, and may require that such funds be replenished as needed. The failure or refusal of an applicant to make such payments shall constitute grounds for denial of the application.

§ 145-86. Dimensional standards.

Lots and buildings in the Agricultural Value-Added District shall meet dimensional standards that are appropriate to establish the desired form, mass, public space, and service needs of the proposed use of the site, notwithstanding the requirements of Article V of this chapter. Recommended standards to establish a design basis are the following:

A. Minimum lot size: 20,000 square feet.
B. Minimum frontage: 50 feet.
C. Maximum lot coverage: 80%.
D. Minimum front setback: 20 feet.
E. Minimum rear setback: 20 feet.
F. Minimum side setback: 15 feet.
G. Minimum lot width: 100 feet.
H. Maximum building height: 50 feet or three stories, with story defined in § 145-2.

§ 145-87. Development design.

A. Consistency.
  (1) Buildings in the Agricultural Value-Added District must demonstrate a link with local agricultural production.
  (2) Multiple buildings on one parcel are permissible if they are deemed consistent with the intent of this article.
B. Overall district design requirements.
  (1) Pedestrian accommodations shall take precedence over vehicular accommodations.
  (2) Parking should be shared as much as possible to minimize curb cuts.
  (3) Solar canopies should be considered for parking lots.
  (4) Lighting must provide a safe pedestrian environment and minimize light trespass. Lights must be aimed downward and not have exposed light sources.
  (5) Landscaping must use only plants native to this region. All reasonable attempts must be made to preserve healthy specimen trees.
C. Building design requirements.
  (1) Building design must be consistent with the Planning Board's Commercial Development Design Guidelines and take into account the National and State registered Historic Agricultural Viewscape within the district.
  (2) Buildings should meet or exceed LEED or comparable "green" building standards for energy efficiency to the greatest extent possible and economically feasible.

§ 145-88. Use standards.

Schedule of uses permitted by right within the Agricultural Value-Added District.

A. Conference center or event space.
B. Agricultural manufacturing, basic agricultural processing, and value-added agricultural processing as defined in §145-83.

C. Commercial food processing.
D. Business incubator for agricultural products.
E. Retail or wholesale outlets for agricultural products.
F. Commercial enterprise that links agricultural production with tourism in order to attract visitors to Belchertown.
G. Restaurant.
H. Brew pub, micro-brewery, smaller brewery or winery, tasting room.
I. Distillery, tasting room.
J. Educational uses related to agricultural production or food systems.
K. Farm worker housing.
L. Art or craft center.
M. Laboratory, research, development, and manufacturing of agricultural products.

§ 145-89. Other standards.

A. All individual lots in the Agricultural Value-Added District must have frontage either on interior private ways or on public ways. Interior private ways must be approved by the planning board on a site plan recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds that demonstrates such private way as providing frontage. Deeded rights-of-way and any easements must be approved by the planning board and recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds prior to any interior road is deemed as providing frontage.

B. Signs.
   (1) Recognizing that signage needs vary, sign size may vary by business or use in the district. The maximum allowed size for an individual sign in an Agricultural Value-Added District is 80 square feet, with the total signage area for an individual building or enterprise being 100 square feet.
   (2) Within a Agricultural Value-Added District, intersection directional signs may be erected with arrows indicating the businesses reached via the cross street, with each business sign not exceeding six inches high by 36 inches long, including the arrow.
   (3) Except as provided in § 145-88B(1) and (2), signs shall conform with Article VI, § 145-22, Signs, of this chapter.

C. Parking.
   (1) Parking areas shared by uses are strongly encouraged. Privately held common parking may be restricted to designated users.
   (2) Parking areas should include electric car charging stations, and solar canopies. The canopies are to be designed as shed roofs for maximum solar gain without detracting from the character of the historic agricultural view.
   (3) Parking and loading requirements should be appropriate to the proposed use so to be adequate for such use while not being excessive.

D. Nuisances. Allowed uses shall not be conducted so as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of the surrounding area, including but not limited to unsightliness, excess emission of odors, waste, dust, fumes, smoke, noise, vibration, heat, glare, or toxic gases.

E. Traffic and Trip Generation evaluation must be included in each site plan application. Truck access and maneuvering must be shown on any site plan.

F. Energy Efficiency – On-site generation of solar, geothermal, or other non-polluting renewable source is strongly encouraged.

G. Lighting must meet Dark Sky standards and not shine off the user's site. There shall not be any light sources directly visible from other properties.

H. Animals must be humanely secured and kept from disturbing the public or neighboring sites.

I. Non-car transportation must be accommodated, e.g. bicycle facilities, pedestrian accessibility, van loading and unloading.

§ 145-90. Amendments; recording of plan.

A. Minor amendments to site plan approval may be granted by the Planning Board upon application and for good cause shown but without necessity of a public hearing; provided, however, that any of the following shall be considered a major amendment and shall be acted upon under the procedures applicable to the initial site plan approval:
   (1) Any change in the amount of shared parking and/or the creation of infrastructure intended to be assumed by the Town;
   (2) Any alteration of building size of more than 400 square feet;
   (3) Any change in the general layout of the ways as provided in the approved site plan.

B. An approved site plan showing the signatures of a majority of the Belchertown Planning Board must be recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds.

§ 145-91. Severability.
A determination that any specific portion of this Article XV is invalid shall not render any other part thereof invalid.

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd declared)

Article 27 Voted to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the sum of $2,500.00 for the administrative expenses of the Committee in FY 2024; and that the Town reserve for future appropriation from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

- $42,715.00 from FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Open Space
- $42,715.00 from FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Historic Resources
- $42,715.00 from FY 2024 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Community Housing

And, further, appropriate and transfer $65,071.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance; and appropriate and transfer $33,604.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Reserve for Open Space Fund to pay the debt service on the bonds issued for the acquisition of approximately 80 acres of land located off South Gulf Road as voted under Article 27 of the June 27, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 28 Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund the sum of $27,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating the historic garden at the historic McPherson Garden and to comply ADA accessibility requirements, and, further, to authorize the Select Board, in consultation with the Historical Commission and the Community Preservation Committee, to enter into a grant agreement to set forth the terms and conditions under which said funds may be expended, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select-board.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 29 Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Balance, the sum of $10,000 the purpose of installing a water well and shed with pump and electricity, properly sized for the irrigation of the football field, with future expansion capabilities to the surrounding sports field, to be located at the Chestnut Hill Community School, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Department.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 30 Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Balance, the sum of $71,000 the purpose of leveling, crowning and seeding the Chestnut Hill Community School football field and installing an ADA-compliant sidewalk to allow access to this field, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Department.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 31 Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund Balance the sum of $13,500 for the purpose of installing new fencing around the newly created pickle ball courts at the Chestnut Hill Community School, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Department.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 32 Voted to appropriate and transfer $9,975.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund for the grave stone preservation and restoration project at the historic South Cemetery, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Veterans Graves Officer.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Article 33 **Citizen Petition**

Voted to support a resolution in support of changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts.

Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagusett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body on the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in

1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen on an Indian", though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps on Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Belchertown, shares a rich Native History with modern tribal Nations such as the Nipmuc, who have lived here for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1731;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Belchertown hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of Special Commission on the official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Jacob Oliveira and Rep. Aaron Saunders, with the request that they support the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority declared)

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting
(Vote – Majority required – Majority declared)

Meeting dissolved at 9:46pm

Attest:
Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2023
FY 24

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
1-3	None						
4	Assessors-Legal Counsel in resolving court tax cases	**$100.00**	$100.00				
5	Reserve Fund for Finance Committee use	**$30,000.00**	$30,000.00				
6	None						
7	Cemetery Lot Development Account	**$5,000.00**					5,000.00 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account
8	**Itemized Budget**						
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT (Total)	**$2,376,376.00**					
	1. Select Board - Salary		$12,600.00				
	Expenses		$4,990.00				
	2. Town Administrator, Salary		$150,000.00				
	Wages		$120,500.00				
	Expenses		$10,197.00				
	3. Town Accountant, Salary		$100,616.00				
	Wages		$138,500.00				
	Expenses		$29,750.00				
	4. Town Clerk, Salary		$91,888.00				
	Wages		$67,150.00				
	Expenses		$11,277.00				
	5. Treasurer/Tax Collector, Salary		$81,695.00				
	Wages		$136,150.00				
	Expenses		$69,135.00				
	6. M.I.S. Department, Salary		$105,646.00				
	Wages		$116,650.00				
	Expenses		$309,728.00				
	7. Board of Assessors (Elected)		$3,200.00				
	Salary		$100,616.00				
	Wages		$256,350.00				
	Expenses		$31,500.00				
	8. Law Account, Fees		$57,800.00				
	9. Finance Committee, Expenses		$250.00				
	10. Election & Registration, Salary		$550.00				
	Wages		$29,290.00				
	Expenses		$19,750.00				
	11. Planning Board, Salary		$105,168.00				
	Wages		$15,650.00				
	Expenses		$3,140.00				
	12. Board of Appeals, Wages		$2,300.00				
	Expenses		$450.00				
	13. Economic Development I.C., Expenses		$375.00				
	14. Chapter 137 Military Leave Pay, Expenses		$100.00				
	15. Cable Access TV Oper., Expenses		$1,500.00				
	16. Agricultural Commission, Expenses		$0.00				
	17. Conservation Commission, Salary		$76,549.00				
	Wages		$0.00				
	Expenses		$6,600.00				
	18. Lakes Committee, Expenses		$0.00				
	19. Human Resources Director, Salary		$100,616.00				
	Expenses		$8,150.00				
	PUBLIC SAFETY	**$5,409,789.00**					
	20. Police Department, Salary						$248,576.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriate Account
	Wages		$1,023,701.00				$991,424.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriate Account
	Expenses		$415,776.00				
	21. Fire Department, Salary		$125,249.00				
	Wages		$1,793,300.00				
	Expenses		$458,851.00				
	22. Injured on Duty, Expenses		$8,000.00				
	23. Hydrant Service, Expenses		$28,456.00				
	24. Animal Control Officer, Salary		$0.00				
	Wages		$98,000.00				
	Expenses		$17,100.00				
	25. Inspection Services, Salary		$100,616.00				
	Wages		$81,600.00				
	Wages		$16,300.00				
	26. Civil Defense, Wages		$350.00				
	Expenses		$2,490.00				
	PUBLIC SCHOOLS						
	27. Town School Department	**$32,597,863.00**					
	Foundation Spending		$32,597,863.00				
	REGIONAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT						
	28. Pathfinder Reg. Voc. Tech High School District	**$1,435,064.00**					
	Net Budget		$1,435,064.00				
	DPW – Highways	**$2,230,896.00**					
	29. Highways/Personnel						
	Salary		$126,775.00				
	Wages		$935,200.00				

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2023
FY 24

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
	Uniforms		$15,850.00				
	Expenses		$2,000.00				
	30. Highway Admin., Expenses		$21,790.00				
	31. Snow & Ice Control, Expenses		$242,000.00				
	32. DPW-Road Machinery, Expenses		$249,901.00				
	33. Hired Services, Expenses		$261,500.00				
	34. Street Lighting, Expenses		$48,500.00				
	35. Streets/Construction, Expenses		$247,500.00				
	36. Professional Engineering, Expenses		$38,500.00				
	37. Town Garage, Expenses		$43,380.00				
	SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL						
	38. Transfer Station (Total)	**$447,050.00**					
	Wages						$118,200.00 from Landfill Receipts
	Expenses						$231,032.00 from Landfill Receipts, $97,818.00 from Landfill Enterprise free cash
	Sewer Enterprise Fund (Total)	**$2,056,557.00**					
	Wages						$415,150.00 from Sewer Enterprise free cash
	Expenses						$4,336.00 from Sewer Enterprise free cash and $1,222,605.00 from Sewer receipts
	Maturing Debt						$397,733.00 from Sewer receipts
	Maturing Debt Interest						$16,733.00 from Sewer receipts
	40. Stormwater Utility Fund (Total)	**$337,650.00**					
	Wages						$107,100.00 from Stormwater Utility Enterprise receipts
	Expenses						$115,052.00 from Stormwater Utility Enterprise receipts and $115,498.00 from Stormwater Enterprise free cash
	HUMAN SERVICES (Total)	**$977,225.00**					
	41. Board of Health, Salary		$2,825.00				
	Wages		$5,500.00				
	Expenses		$9,156.00				
	42. Council on Aging, Salary		$94,595.00				
	Wages		$472,934.00				
	Expenses		$27,300.00				
	43. Veterans Services Agent, Salary		$89,510.00				
	Expenses		$2,180.00				
	Veterans' Benefits		$241,000.00				
	44. Veterans' Graves - Expenses		$2,625.00				
	45. DPW - Cemetery Department, Expenses		$29,500.00				
	46. Mobile Home/Rent Control Board, Expenses		$100.00				
	CULTURE AND RECREATION	**$971,029.00**					
	47. Clapp Memorial Library, Salary		$84,660.00				
	Wages		$362,255.00				
	Expenses		$133,623.00				
	48. Parks and Recreation, Salary		$96,726.00				
	Wages		$251,500.00				
	Expenses		$11,745.00				
	49. Parks & Recreation Pool, Expenses		$27,350.00				
	50. Parks & Recreation Beach, Expenses		$2,470.00				
	51. Family Center, Expenses		$700.00				
	DPW – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (Total)	**$963,905.00**					
	52. DPW-Maintenance/Grounds, Wages		$438,900.00				
	Expenses		$113,105.00				
	53. DPW-Lawrence Memorial Hall, Expenses		$70,650.00				
	54. DPW-Town Common, Expenses		$8,750.00				
	55. DPW-Town Clock, Wages		$600.00				
	56. DPW-Finnerty House		$10,460.00				
	57. DPW-Old Town Hall, Expenses		$10,000.00				
	58. DPW-Senior Center Bldg., Expenses		$68,505.00				
	59. DPW-Recreation Bldg., Expenses		$32,440.00				
	60. DPW-Police Station, Expenses		$54,105.00				
	61. DPW-EMS Bldg., Expenses		$10,775.00				
	62. DPW-Freedom Center, Expenses		$22,880.00				
	63. DPW-Fire Station, Expenses		$57,560.00				
	64. DPW-Franklin School Bldg, Expenses		$16,690.00				
	65. DPW-Tagell/MEMA Space, Expenses		$39,645.00				
	66. Animal Control Building		$8,640.00				
	PENSIONS AND INSURANCE	**$6,282,360.00**					
	67. General Insurance, Expenses				$557,500.00		
	68. Unemployment Insurance, Expenses				$20,600.00		
	69. Workers Compensation Insurance, Expenses				$8,000.00		
	70. Health Insurance, Expenses		$523,742.00		$799,258.00		
	71. Group Life Insurance, Expenses		$4,000.00				
	72. FICA-Medicare-Town Share, Expenses		$141,500.00				
	73. Pensions, Expenses		$4,227,760.00				
	UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNTS	**$79,098.00**					
	74. Historical Commission, Expenses		$500.00				
	75. Historic District, Expenses		$348.00				
	76. Patriotic Exercises, Expenses		$300.00				
	77. Printing Annual Reports, Expenses		$2,000.00				

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2023
FY 24

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
	78. Unclassified Accts, Expenses		$75,950.00				
	INTEREST & MATURING DEBT	**$954,650.00**					
	79. Interest, Expenses		$244,650.00				
	80. Maturing Debt, Expenses		$710,000.00				
9	Stabilization Fund	**$200,000.00**			$200,000.00		
10-12	None						
13	**BELCHERTOWN COMMUNITY CHANNEL**	$73,000.00					
	Operations						$73,000.00 from Peg Access & Cable Related Fund
14	**BELCHERTOWN CULTURAL COUNCIL**	$3,500.00					
	Expense		$3,500.00				
15-26	None						
27	1. Community Preservation Fund - Admin Exp	**$2,500.00**					$2,500.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues
	2. Community Preservation Fund - Open Space	**$42,715.00**					$42,715.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Open Space
	3. Community Preservation Fund – Historic Resources	**$42,715.00**					$42,715.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Historic Resources
	4. Community Preservation Fund – Community Housing	**$42,715.00**					$42,715.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Housing
	5. Pay CPA debt service on bonds voted under Article 27 @ June 27, 2020 Annual Town Mtg.	**$98,675.00**					$65,071.00 from Community Preservation Fund Balance and $33,604.00 from Community Preservation Fund Reserve for Open Space
28	Rehabilitating the historic garden at the historic McPherson Garden.	**$27,000.00**					$27,000.00 from Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
29	Installation of a water well and shed with pump and electricity to be located at the Chestnut Hill Community School.	**$10,000.00**					$10,000.00 from the Community Preservation Act Fund
30	Leveling, crowning and seeding the Chestnut Hill Community School football field and installing ADA-compliant sidewalks for access to said field.	**$71,000.00**					$71,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
31	Installation of new fencing around the pickle ball courts at Chestnut Hill School.	**$13,500.00**					$13,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
32	Gravestone preservation and restoration project at the historic South Cemetery.	$9,975.00					$9,975.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
33	None						
TOTAL		**$57,791,907.00**	**$51,686,497.00**	**$0.00**	**$1,585,358.00**	**$0.00**	**$4,520,052.00**
	Attest:						
	Theresa A. Camerlin						
	Town Clerk						